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Support for the Preparation for the **World Heritage Serial Nomination** of

THE SILK ROADS IN SOUTH ASIA



Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia

Final Report
September 2016



Figure 1: Buddhist Monastery along the Silk Roads © UNESCO/Roland Lin.

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Project Title:

Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia

Target Country or Region: **South Asia: Bhutan, India and Nepal, in close cooperation with China**

Budget code: **526RAS4014**

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Total Budget approved: **200,000 USD (including 13% in Programme support costs)**

Reporting Period: **May 2013 – August 2016**

Executing Agency: **UNESCO Culture Sector, World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices in South Asia**

Implementing partners:

- **Nepal:** Department of Archaeology of Nepal (DoA);
- **India:** Archeological Survey of India (ASI);
- **Bhutan:** Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan;
- **China:** State of Administration of Cultural Heritage of China;
- **National Commissions for UNESCO** of Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal
- **University College London, United Kingdom**
- **ICOMOS International in Paris**
- **ICOMOS International Conservation Center – Xi'an (IICC-X)**

Project starting date: **18 July 2013**

Project completion date: **30 August 2016**

Responsible Sector: **Culture Sector / World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices in South Asia**

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I. Summary and Background

A. Executive summary

In line with the broader work of UNESCO to encourage research on the Silk Roads as routes of interchange and dialogue of cultures via a number of fora since 1988, this UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust (FiT) project “Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia” was developed in 2013. This project aims to facilitate, in close cooperation with China, the understanding of the Silk Roads heritage route networks in the State Parties of Bhutan, Nepal, and India, which consist of comparatively smaller heritage routes that hold considerable historical and cultural importance and merit enhanced study and conservation.

This project initially envisaged that four events would be carried out during the project period (May 2013 – February 2016), i.e. a consultation meeting and mission in Bhutan (24 November – 1 December 2013), a sub-regional workshop in Nepal (23 – 24 September 2014), a concept paper on the South Asian Silk Roads, and the fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (23 – 27 November 2015). However, during the implementation of the project, more activities were deemed necessary and made possible to achieve better project results, including consultation meetings for the approved UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project in Nepal (27 October – 3 November 2013), the establishment of the National Silk Roads Coordination Committee in Nepal (2014), a field expedition to the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor in Nepal (26 – 30 January 2015), two National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshops in Bhutan (20 – 22 August 2014 & 11 – 17 February 2016), an expert mission for the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project in India (1 – 3 December 2013), and the completion of the *Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016* (Tim Williams, Roland Lin, 2016).

The consultation meeting and mission in Bhutan (24 November – 1 December 2013) set out the preparatory framework for Bhutan to participate in the current project through the assessment of the current national capacity of Bhutan and the identification of the needs for further capacity-building at national level. The Sub-Regional Workshop on the Nomination Strategy and Guidance for the South Asian Silk Roads in Nepal (23 – 24 September 2014) resulted in the adoption of an Action Plan in view of the potential submission, by 1 February 2018, of the first South Asian transnational heritage corridor(s) nomination. The concept paper on the South Asian Silk Roads was considered by the relevant State Parties as less desirable than a comprehensive guidance document on World Heritage nomination strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads. As a result, the South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy was developed, which reviewed existing data and suggested possible approaches for the South Asian State Parties to advance the serial transboundary Silk Roads World Heritage nomination process. The 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (23 – 27 November 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan) reviewed the progress of the Silk Road World Heritage Nominations processes and considered the potential need for further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study to cover Eastern Asia and Western Asia. As a result of this meeting, Pakistan and Turkey became new members of the Coordinating Committee and Bhutan joined as an observer.

A series of additional activities was carried out during the project period, providing further facilitation and technical support to the related State Parties in their joint preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia. These additional activities ensured that the best possible results could be achieved under the current UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project.

Overall, the project has significantly enhanced the capacity of the South Asian State Parties, particularly Bhutan and Nepal, in understanding, conserving and inventorying their national Silk Roads heritage sites/routes/corridors. It has also created a platform for sustained dialogue between the State Parties concerned within the framework of the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia.

B. Background to the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project for the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in South Asia

As the largest cultural heritage routes network in the history of mankind, the Silk Roads present major potential for inscription on the World Heritage List. Over the past four decades, UNESCO has launched a number of ambitious initiatives aimed at reinforcing dialogue and research along the Silk Roads. The Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue (UNESCO 1988-1997) further reinforced the idea of a “common heritage and pluralistic identity.” Since 2003, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre has played a key role in the coordination of the serial transnational World Heritage nomination of the Silk Roads, initiated by five Central Asian countries and China. The Silk Roads, which stretch across the length of the Asian continent, possess some of the region’s most outstanding and valuable heritage, and the disappearance of this heritage would be an irreversible loss to humanity. The Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination Project has proved crucial to enhance the efforts for international exchange and cooperation towards the effective and sustainable conservation and management of this shared heritage.

Within the framework of the Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1994, State Parties such as China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have been working with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the serial and transnational nomination of the Silk Roads. In this framework, UNESCO has organized a number of regional and sub-regional workshops and four meetings of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (May 2009 in Xian, China; May 2011 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan; September 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and November 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan). The Coordinating Committee now includes 14 countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) as members and Bhutan as an observer.

During the 2011 Ashgabat meeting, an ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study was presented and subsequently adopted, setting out the “Heritage Corridor” nomination approach that has been followed by State Parties ever since (the study was subsequently updated and published in 2014). Within the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project “Support for documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia” (February 2011 to February 2015), ICOMOS, International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS - a UNESCO Category 2 Centre based in Samarkand, Uzbekistan), and ICOMOS International Conservation Centre – Xi’an (IICC-X) have supported the nominations of two Silk Roads heritage corridors jointly prepared by China and Central Asian countries. These two serial and transnational nominations for the Silk Roads were submitted in 2013.

“The Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an – Tian-shan Corridor,” jointly prepared by China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, which consisted of 33 serial components (22 from China, 8 from Kazakhstan, and 3 from Kyrgyzstan), was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii), (v), and (vi) at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014). The second nomination dossier, which concerned the Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor, was jointly submitted by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and referred back to the States Parties in order for them to strengthen and improve the nomination.

The current UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT Project marks the commencement of Silk Roads World Heritage serial and transnational nomination process in South Asia. The project was officially approved by the Donor on 18 July 2013 for the purpose of supporting the preparation for the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in South Asia. A serial and transnational nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia would contribute to the overall goal of protecting key segments of this important cultural route and further advance the role of culture in sustainable development in the context of South Asia.

C. Detailed Project Objectives

This project aims to provide support in the preparation for the potential serial and transnational nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia. It focuses on understanding the Silk Roads heritage route networks in China, Nepal, India, and Bhutan, which consist of smaller roads compared to other routes but holds considerable historical and cultural importance that merits enhanced study and conservation. To this end, this project intends to carry out a consultation meeting and mission in Bhutan, a sub-regional workshop in Nepal, a concept paper on the South Asian Silk Roads, and the fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, between May 2013 and February 2016.

The overall objective of this project is to support the related South Asian States Parties in the submission of (a) nomination dossier(s) on Silk Roads for the inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. A successful inscription would surely facilitate the effective conservation of the Silk Roads corridors in South Asia and allow current and future generations to benefit from the heritage present in these most significant cultural heritage routes in human history.

II. Description of Project Activities Undertaken During the Contract Period

A. Foreseen activities in this framework:

1. **Consultation meetings and mission in Bhutan**
2. **Sub-regional workshop in Nepal, with participation of representatives from Bhutan, Nepal, India, and China**
3. **Concept paper on the South Asian Silk Roads**
4. **Fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads**

B. Implementation of planned activities:

1. **Consultation meetings and mission in Bhutan**

Consultation Mission to Bhutan for the approved UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project (24 November–1 December 2013)

Dr Roland Lin (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) and Dr Tim Williams (international expert, University College London, UK) undertook initial discussions with the Bhutanese national authorities regarding their potential involvement in the South Asian Silk Roads serial and transnational nomination project. They introduced the current Silk Roads nomination process and discussed Bhutan's potential involvement in transboundary activities with China, India, and Nepal.

During the consultation mission to Bhutan, a workshop on “World Heritage” and “Serial Nomination of Silk Roads in South Asia” was organized on 28 November 2013 at the National Library Conference Hall in Thimphu, Bhutan. It was attended by about 20 participants from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS), as well as other services of the Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs, the Ministry

of Agriculture & Forest, and the Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO.

The mission team also undertook some visits to the potential Silk Roads heritage sites near Thimphu. The consultation mission was also an opportunity to establish some practical methods for Bhutan to participate in the nomination process, especially by assessing the current capacity of the Bhutanese authorities and experts and by identifying the need for future capacity building.

Finally, the mission succeeded in establishing contacts between the Bhutanese authorities and the international expert, Dr Tim Williams, who would be assisting with and advising on the development of the South Asian Silk Roads World Heritage nomination strategy, in concert with the four participating States Parties.



Figure 2. Prof Roland Lin (UNESCO) and Yeshi Samdrup (DCHS) at Dochu La pass (3,116 m) during field visit in Bhutan.



Figure 3. Punakha Dzong, Bhutan.



Figure 4. Tango Monastery with an active monastic community, Bhutan.



Figure 5. Simtokha Dzong, Bhutan: complex murals repainted to sustain their role for a living monastic community.



Figure 6. The landscape context of the Dzong in Bhutan.



Figure 7. The outer works of Drukgyel Dzong, Bhutan, showing the difficulties of managing this large complex.

2. Sub-regional workshop in Nepal, with the participation of representatives from Bhutan, Nepal, India, and China

Sub-regional workshop on the Nomination Strategy and Guidance for the South Asian Silk Roads (Nepal, 23–24 September 2014)

This sub-regional workshop was co-organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu and the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal. It brought together a number of national representatives and experts from Bhutan, China and India along with an international expert, UNESCO representatives and about 60 national participants from the Host Country to discuss the serial and transnational World Heritage nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review the current research on Silk Roads heritage routes and the actions already undertaken by the four concerned State Parties;
- Adopt the draft *Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads*;
- Draft an Action Plan; and
- Develop action points for a possible transnational management coordination mechanism and harmonized documentation system.

During the two-day workshop, the participating countries reviewed their national activities in relation to the South Asian Silk Roads Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination and undertook extensive discussion on the South Asian Silk Roads: Draft Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination. As a result, an action plan was drafted, discussed, and agreed upon in view of the possible submission, by 1 February 2018, of the first South Asian priority transnational heritage corridor(s).

The workshop notably agreed that the Nepali authorities would initiate, from early 2015, bilateral meetings with India and China to establish a steering committee and a working group. The working group was to organize its first meeting in 2015 to discuss the content of the potential nomination, including updating the World Heritage Tentative List of Silk Roads among the corresponding State Parties. Its subsequent meetings were expected to harmonize the documentation system within 2015.

The sub-regional workshop presented a good opportunity for the State Parties concerned to enhance the representation of the sub-region's historical and cultural significance through the preparation and potential inscription of one or more South Asian Silk Roads heritage corridor(s) on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In addition, this workshop also provided a forum for the State Parties to share their experience of the first Silk Roads nomination process in South Asia. The workshop was considered successful and constructive and led to the production of two concrete working documents: the *South Asian Silk Roads: Draft Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy* and the *Draft Action Plan in consideration of the submission deadline of 1 February 2018 of the first South Asian priority transnational heritage corridor(s)* (see Annex V and VI).



Figure 8. Kathmandu sub-regional workshop on the nomination strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads, September 2014.

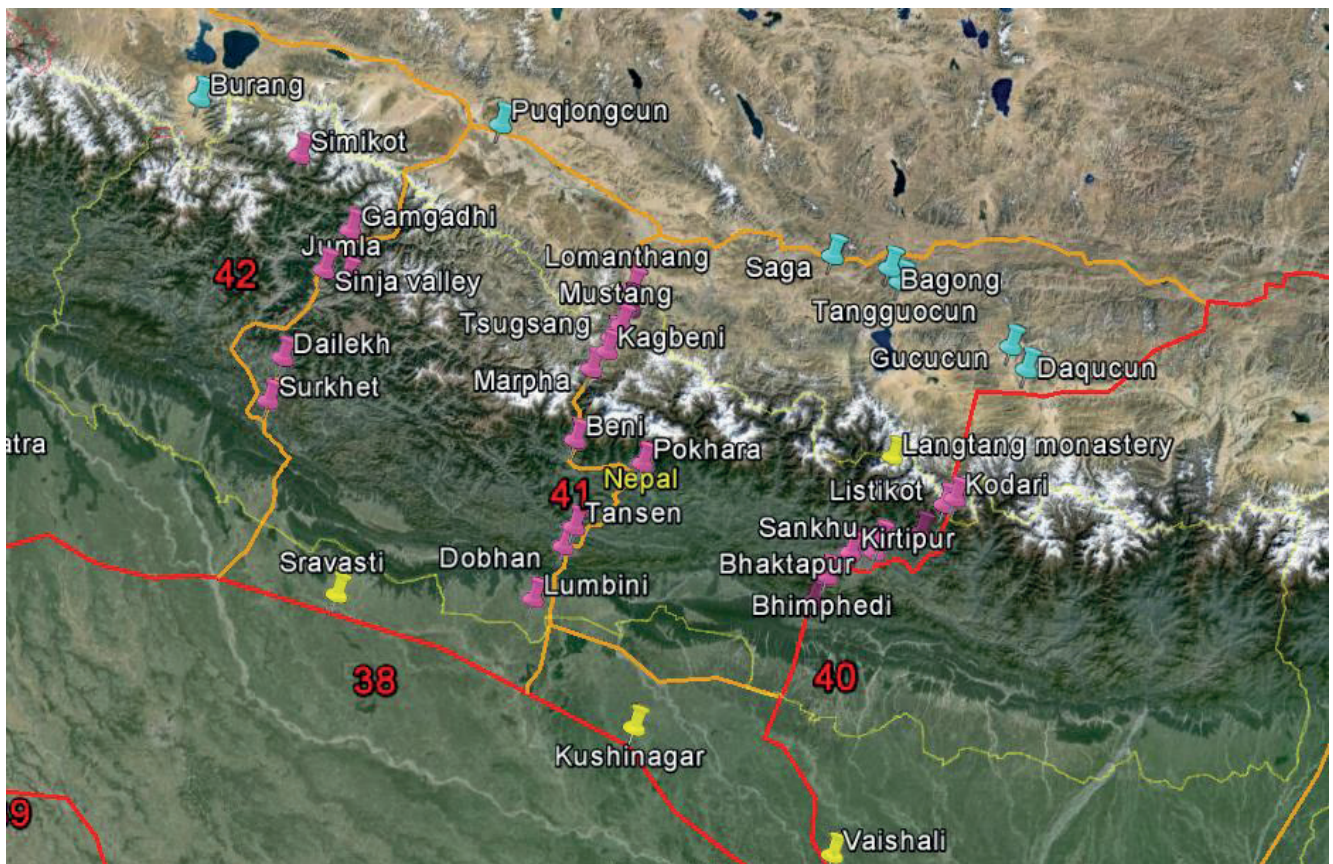


Figure 9. Silk Roads Heritage Corridors through Nepal based on the comments of Mr Sukra Sagar Shrestha, Nepali national expert.



Figure 10. Caves in Mustang, Nepal (Photograph: Prof. Susanne von der Heide).



Figure 11. The Kaligandaki Gorge, Nepal: an example of the remote and rigged terrain of the mountain routes (Photographs: Mr Sukra Sagar Shrestha).



Figure 12. Ghemi, Nepal, an outstanding example of the long walls organizing and controlling this landscape (Photograph: Mr Sukra Sagar Shrestha).



Figure 13. The South Asian region with some of the main Silk Roads heritage corridors under discussion during the Kathmandu workshop.

3. Concept Paper on the South Asian Silk Roads

Drafting the South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy

The South Asian State Parties decided to use the framework set out by the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study and therefore considered that there was no need to draft another concept paper. Instead, they indicated that a guidance document on a World Heritage nomination strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads would be needed. In response, Dr Tim Williams of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UK), author of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study undertaken in 2011, completed the first draft of the South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy in close consultation with experts and officials from the State Parties concerned (see Annex VI).

The Nomination Strategy reviewed existing data and suggested possible approaches for the South Asian States Parties to progress with the serial transboundary Silk Roads World Heritage nomination process. It was later updated based on discussions held at the 2014 sub-regional workshop in Nepal.

On 22 October 2014, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre sent out a letter asking the four concerned State Parties for potential comments on this Nomination Strategy to be sent by 28 November 2014. Nepal responded with a letter approving the Nomination Strategy, and the other three countries did not send any comments by the deadline.

4. Fourth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads

Organization of the 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 23–27 November 2015)

As a result of previous international and regional consultation meetings and following the efforts made during the three Coordinating Committee Meetings between 2006 and 2012, two Silk Roads World Heritage nomination dossiers were prepared and submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2013. These nominations were examined in June 2014 at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, Qatar). The World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe “The Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an - Tianshan Corridor”, jointly nominated by China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The nomination concerning “The Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor”, jointly prepared by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, was referred back to the States Parties in order for them to strengthen and improve the nomination, with advice from ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, in cooperation with Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO, organized the 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads from 23 to 27 November 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. This Coordinating Committee meeting brought together national focal points and experts from the twelve member countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and other partner countries (Bhutan, Pakistan and Turkey). The Delegation of each State Party was composed of two representatives, including an official possessing the necessary authority to approve the strategy for this serial nomination and one expert with a background in history, archaeology, heritage themes of the Silk Roads, or conservation of cultural properties.

The participants of the meeting reviewed the progress made with the Silk Road World Heritage Nominations processes, including the South Asian Silk Roads, the Silk Roads Syr Darya Heritage Corridor and other initiatives such as the Maritime Silk Roads and Mausam: Maritime Routes and Cultural Landscapes. They also considered the potential need of a further development on the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study to cover Eastern Asia and Western Asia.

Furthermore, the meeting invited ICOMOS and other international experts to present, together with UNESCO staff, the ongoing international Silk Roads activities, including UNESCO/Japan FiT and UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT projects supporting the Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination process. Their participation ensured the discussion on further technical assistance and cooperation to advance

the Silk Roads World Heritage nominations.

As a result of this meeting, Pakistan and Turkey became new members of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, and Bhutan joined as an observer. From then on, the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads included 14 member states (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and Bhutan as an observer.



Figure 14. The Almaty meeting in progress.



Figure 15. The South Asian representatives discussing strategy and progress in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

5. Additional Activities

Nepal:

- a. Consultation meetings for the approved UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project (Kathmandu, 27 October–3 November 2013)

Staff from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre participated in and facilitated a number of consultation meetings with the UNESCO Field Office in Kathmandu, the Department of Archaeology (DoA) under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation of Nepal, and other related Nepali authorities and experts for the planning and implementation of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project activities.

The WHC staff briefed the Nepali authorities and experts on the scope of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project and its activities, in order to facilitate the discussion of their implementation within Nepal, and in the larger scope of South Asia. Discussions with the Nepali authorities also concerned the necessity to develop a Silk Roads World Heritage nomination strategy, with assistance and advice from an outside expert.

They also conferred with the Nepali authorities regarding the hosting of a sub-regional Silk Roads Consultation Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, which should also include representatives and experts from Bhutan, China, India and Nepal. It was proposed that this activity take place in 2014.

Furthermore, the UNESCO staff reviewed, together with the Nepali authorities and experts, the ongoing research on Silk Roads, in particular the three proposed Silk Roads heritage corridors within Nepal.

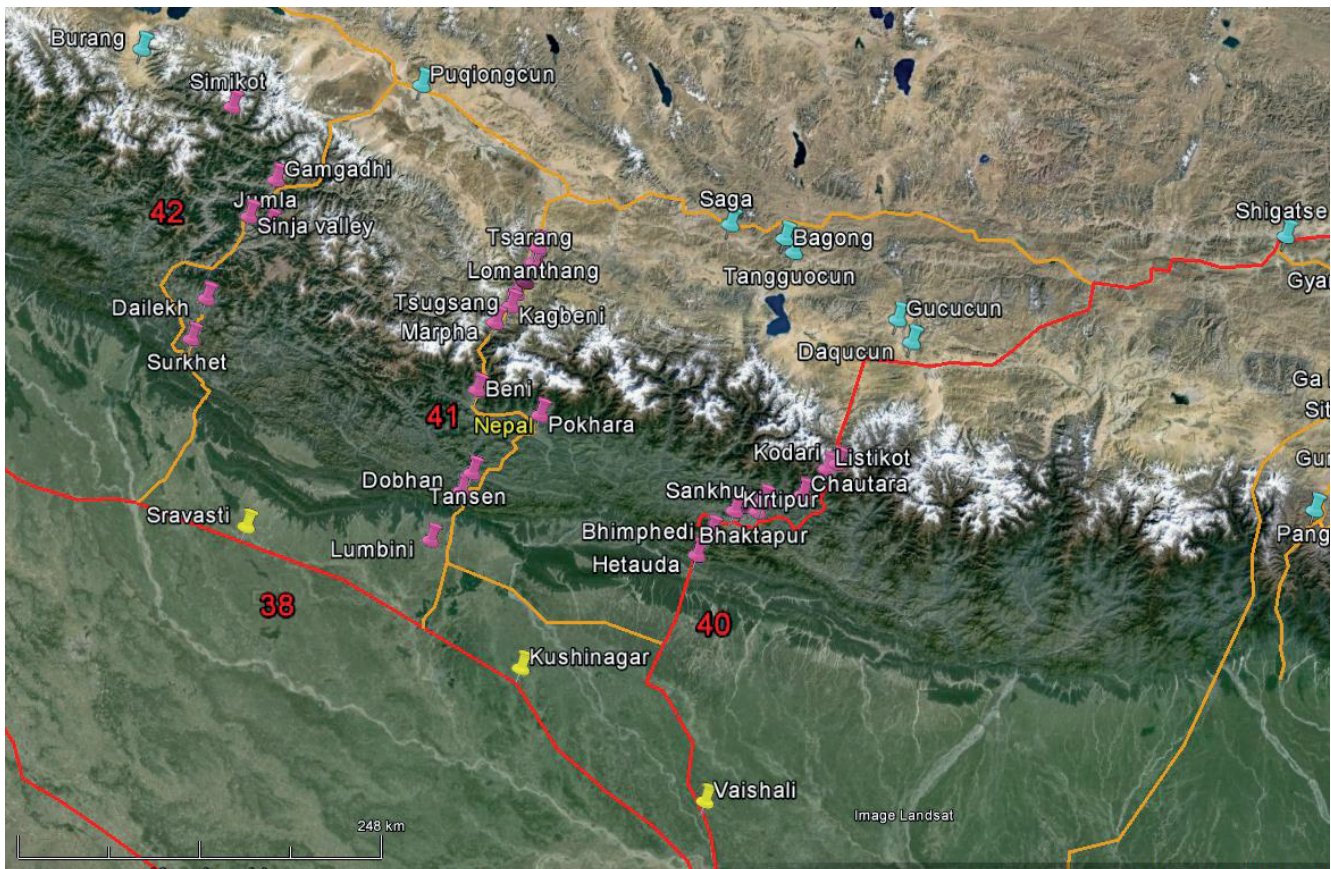


Figure 16. Sites along the Tibetan Plateau and the three corridors through Nepal: the easternmost Kathmandu Valley (Corridor 40), the central (mid-western Nepal) route through Lo Manthang and Lumbini (Corridor 41) and the westernmost route including Jumla and Surkhet (Corridor 42). (*South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy*, Tim Williams, 2014)

As a result of these consultation meetings, the creation of an inter-departmental Silk Roads National Coordinating Committee in Nepal was proposed, to be tasked with organizing follow-up activities and ensuring the further development of inventory, documentation, and capacity-building activities.

b. Facilitation and technical support for national Silk Roads activities in Nepal (2014– 2015)

i. Establishment of National Coordination Committee for Silk Roads (2014)

In 2014, UNESCO issued a contract with the Nepali Department of Archaeology (DoA) to facilitate and provide technical support for national Silk Roads activities. This contract was subsequently extended to May 2015 to ensure better results. The implemented activities included the organization of national consultation meetings at nodal cities and districts along the identified Nepali heritage corridor(s) and field expeditions/research in January 2015 for the preparation of documentation and inventorying of the identified priority heritage corridor(s) in Nepal.

As a result, a working team called the Nepali National Coordination Committee for the Silk Roads was established in January 2014 to oversee the national Silk Roads activities. The Coordination Committee included DoA staff from relevant sections, representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, and other invited national experts, institutions, relevant government departments, and UNESCO. It met on an ad-hoc basis to review the work in progress and discuss the way forward.

Its first meeting was held on 19 February 2014 to review activities carried out by the DoA and discuss the detailed activities to be carried out further. The meeting suggested exploring the postal routes (*hulaki marg*) from Kathmandu to Western Nepal, in cooperation with the Postal Services Department, in order to gather more evidence on the route. In addition, it suggested the Nepali authorities take the necessary actions to protect any extant evidence along the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor, especially petroglyphs, rock shelters, rock-hewn walkways and painted caves, all of which are highly vulnerable due to the road construction. Discussion on the legal protection of the sites along the heritage corridors was placed on the agenda of the following meetings to be held in 2015.

Created at departmental level, the Committee lacked clearly defined functional roles, responsibilities, and authority for decision making. Therefore, having the Committee recognised at the ministerial level was considered necessary for inter-departmental and/or inter-ministerial cooperation. In consultation with national experts, the DoA is currently preparing a revised coordination structure to have it endorsed at ministerial level.

In April 2014, a focal point within the National Coordination Committee was established to advance/facilitate the South Asian Silk Roads activities and a series of in-house consultations. A sensitization meeting was held among the members to discuss the preparatory activities for the sub-regional workshop hosted by Nepal which, initially scheduled for April 2014, was postponed to 23–24 September 2014.

Within the framework of national activities, the DoA has purchased some 50 books related to the Silk Roads to establish a documentation centre. The centre will also house existing archives, works (e.g. photographs, drawings, maps) and other records related to the Silk Roads heritage corridors through Nepal. The DoA has started reviewing, mapping, and documenting potential heritage sites along the identified heritage corridors, in particular the Lumbini-Mustang corridor. Required field expeditions to complete the documentation and research work are ongoing, along with the purchase of the equipment required (DSLR Camera, climate-friendly storing device for the computer and GPS units, etc.). Bilateral meetings were foreseen with China and India to discuss transboundary coordination mechanisms and to explore and agree upon connections within the entire heritage corridor, in view of the submission of nomination dossiers for the first South Asian priority transnational heritage corridor(s), as envisaged in the Action Plan adopted in the Sub-regional workshop held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

In 2014, UNESCO also facilitated the meeting between the DoA and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in view of their possible collaboration. During the meeting, ICIMOD expressed interest to link its Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative with the South Asian Silk Roads World Heritage nomination project. A follow-up meeting was held with ICIMOD experts to enhance scientific documentation of cultural heritage along the corridor(s). However, these discussions have not yet yielded any joint venture.

ii. Field expedition to Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor (26 – 30 January 2015)

From 26 to 30 January 2015, a mission to the Nepali Silk Roads heritage corridor from Lumbini to

Ghansa was carried out, as part of the Action Plan prepared by the DoA in the framework of the contract issued by UNESCO to the DoA. The primary aim of this mission was to assess sites along the potential South Asian Silk Roads heritage corridors in Nepal, mainly the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor, which Nepal has prioritised. The mission team was composed of two representatives from the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu and two staff members from the Department of Archaeology (DoA) of Nepal, accompanied by a leading Silk Roads expert in Nepal.

On 26 January 2015, a meeting was held in Lumbini to discuss UNESCO's proposal for technical assistance on South Asian Silk Roads and Cultural Landscape initiatives in Nepal, as the Silk Roads heritage corridors could also be part of the cultural landscape. The DoA could benefit from field explorations for the Silk Roads heritage corridors and from the ongoing documentation work to better understand the issues involved in nominating cultural landscapes in Nepal. As a result, it was agreed that the following three main areas of activities could be envisaged for Nepal:

- Inventory and capacity-building: The DoA particularly stressed the need for a national inventory of potential sites and capacity building for the relevant stakeholders;
- Legal system for the protection of Silk Roads and cultural landscape: The DoA could consider how the legislation regarding heritage routes/corridors could be reflected and/or incorporated in the current amendment of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 2013 (1956);
- Potential Tentative List (TL): The DoA could consider reviewing the present state of those sites which could come under the Silk Roads and cultural landscape categories, with a view to updating the Tentative List of Nepal.

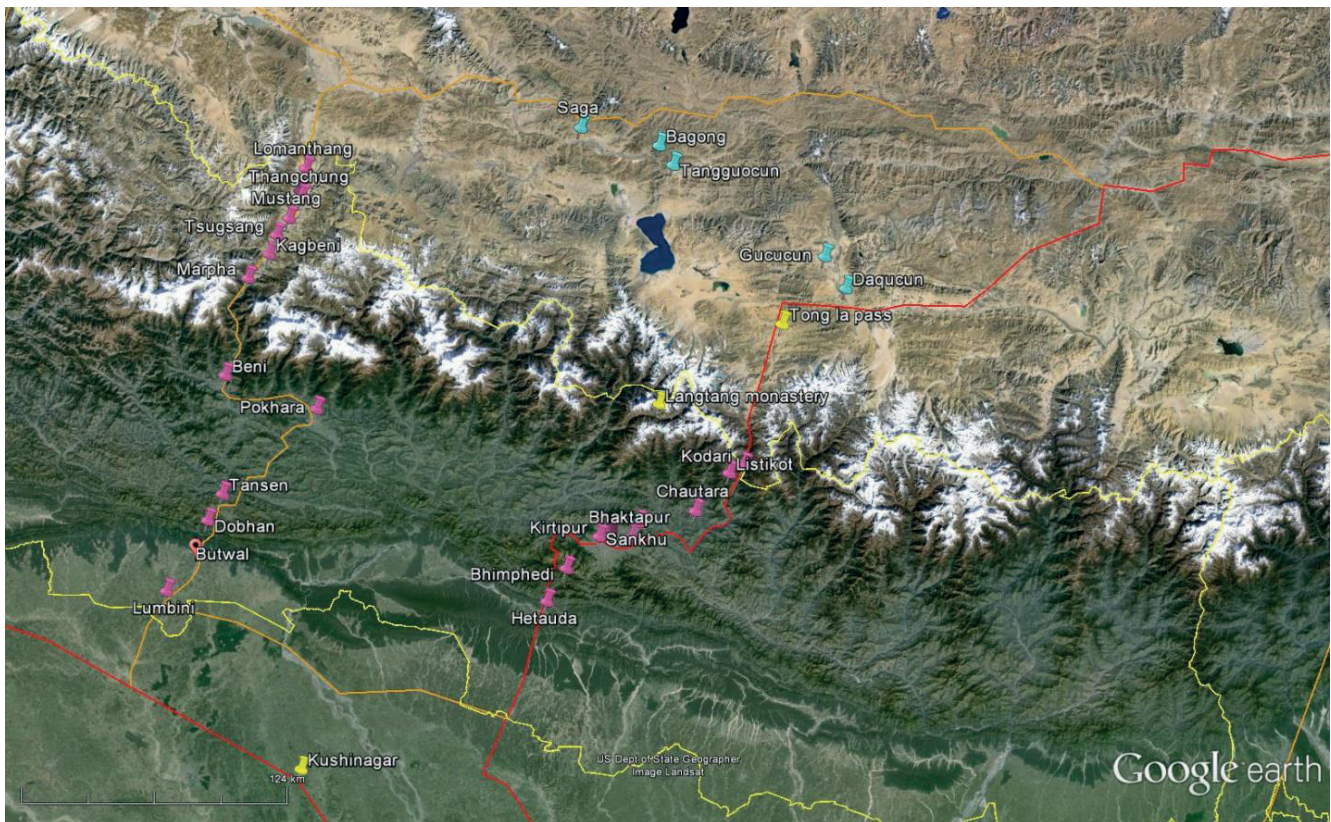


Figure 17. The Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor, Nepal (Google Earth).

From 27 to 29 January 2015, starting with Lumbini, a series of historical sites were visited by the mission team, which are selectively presented as below:

The old Batauli and Khasyauli bazaar of Butwal: main gateway to Western Nepal, alongside the Tinau River. These are historically important commercial centres. It seems that very little remains of the ancient town. Further research and documentation on the settlements will be required to demonstrate its significance and to define its contribution to the overall significance of the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor.

Palace of Mani Mukunda Sen in Butwal: This was the winter palace of the Sen clan of Palpa, who

ruled during the 15-16th centuries. A free-standing northern wall and other parts of a ruined palace are in dilapidated condition. The ruins are set within a brick enclosure and are a part of a larger site demarcated as a park under the local management of Butwal Municipal office. The site needs urgent protection, including technical support regarding appropriate development, regular maintenance, awareness raising for workers employed nearby for activities such as tree-cutting and construction. Further research and documentation is needed to justify its significance for the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor.

Sainamaina in Bitol (some 11-12 km west of Butwal): the site displays archaeological richness. According to Professor Gita Giri, who conducted research here in 1993, 2003, 2005 and 2013, it is one of the two main cities of ancient Kapilvastu during the Shakya period (Samagama and Mainapur, according to Buddhist literature). The site contains various features, including habitation and monumental structures, wells and *kuwas* (a form of traditional water source), along with numerous fragments of pottery, terracotta animal figurines, coins, beads, weapons, slabs, etc. Parts of the stone temple structures, such as a temple door lintel, dressed stone roof slab, and *makara* head (Sanskrit: मकर, is a sea-creature in Hindu culture. It is generally depicted as half terrestrial animal in the frontal part (stag, deer, crocodile, or elephant) and half aquatic animal in the hind part (usually a fish or seal tail, though sometimes a peacock or even a floral tail is depicted.) were found scattered across the area. Near Ranikuwa was an outstanding intricately carved stone statue, which Sukra Sagar identified as *Padmapani* (Bodhisattva), possibly dating to the 8th to 10th century (based on the details and iconography). All are on the side of the road, with no protection. Locals said that there are many historically important fragments of antiquities scattered in this area (the mission did not allow for sufficient time to further investigate those sites).

The site is highly vulnerable to treasure hunters, although Nepal has little or no history of illegal excavation. The overall site is predominantly agricultural land, with few local residences, but there are indications of possible new housing developments and on top of the nearby north-western hill, a large construction site was said to be the work of the Army. The leading Nepali expert Mr. Sukra Sagar also warned that the use of pesticides for cultivation in the agricultural land could be potentially dangerous for the archaeological remains. It was discussed whether the site needs to be brought under the immediate protection by the DoA, in close cooperation with the local district development committee, to control inappropriate activities and new buildings. It was also considered important to map the archaeological resources, in order to help protect them from further destruction. Some of the archaeological finds from the site are to be displayed in Lumbini Museum, and are already under the protection of the Government of Nepal. The site demonstrates significant features and is one of the potential sites to be considered for inclusion on the Tentative List of Nepal as part of the Silk Roads heritage corridor.

The medieval town of Tansen, on the Tentative List of Nepal, was briefly observed. The *durbar* (plazas and areas opposite the old royal palaces in Nepal) has been totally rebuilt after it was burnt down during Maoist insurgency. The town has seen many new constructions and has already lost much of its significant historical fabric. This town's relationship to the Silk Roads heritage corridor is yet to be explored and the DoA plans to accumulate information with stakeholders and local experts.

The route from Palpa to Tatopani via Pokhara and Beni: the route, particularly from Tatopani to Ghansa, provides views of mountain peaks such as Annapurna, Nilgiri, Tukuiche and Dhaulagiri, and demonstrates outstanding topographical and natural features, and areas of exceptional natural beauty. This part of the route has a strong potential for consideration under natural criteria. Another important feature is the world's deepest gorge at Kaligandaki, which is 6,000 m deep. Additionally, the Rupse waterfall is said to be the tallest waterfall in Nepal.

The road up to Jomsom and Tshuksang: A large rock shelter may have been destroyed during road construction, while the rock-hewn trail above the present road in the stone cliff is strong evidence of this part of the Silk Roads corridor.

The section of the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor that the mission visited is certainly extraordinary, but there are only few sites that might be nominated in a Silk Roads heritage corridor. However, in terms of cultural exchange and of the use of the route over time, this section's significance should not be underestimated. The road travelled during the mission was not always same as the old trade route, and there must be other important features that the mission did not see. The DoA, Nepal, envisages to continue to look for evidence through additional research, trekking on the old route and local consultations.

There are many challenges in developing the Nepal section of the Silk Roads. In order to make the best possible use of scarce resources, it is important to build on existing knowledge.

A couple of important issues arose from this mission:

- The information collected by mapping identified heritage sites (cities and settlements), combined with inventory and detailed research, needs to be systematically compiled and recorded. The capacity for scientific documentation has to be built within the DoA. This again raised the possibility of Nepal adopting a digital National Inventory system.
- There is an urgent need to ensure the legal protection of sites and specific features (e.g. petroglyphs left unprotected at Eklebhatti beyond Jomsom) under local planning laws, if not under the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 2013 (1956). As there are no adequate regional or local offices of the DoA, there is a need for formal collaboration with local authorities (Municipalities, DDCs, and VDCs), and a clear understanding of what aspects of protection are needed to ensure their protection.
- ICIMOD have expressed their interest in providing technical assistance to the DoA for the documentation of heritage sites along the heritage corridors. In addition, the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative could lead to a potential World Heritage nomination.



Figure 18. Sukra Sagar Shrestha (Nepali national expert) describing to Christian Manhart (UNESCO Kathmandu), Suresh Suras Shrestha (DoA, Nepal) and Debendra Bhattarai (DoA, Nepal) the importance of a site along the route.



Figure 19. Sainamaina, Bitol: an intricate carved statue, possibly of *Padmapani* (Bodhisattva) and dating back to the 8-10th centuries



Figure 20. Mustang-Lumbini corridor, Nepal: a rock shelter on the way from Beni to Jomsom may have been destroyed during road construction, but parts of a rock-hewn trail, in the stone cliff above the present road, still exists.

Bhutan:

a. National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop (20 – 22 August 2014)

Dr Roland Lin (UNESCO World Heritage Centre), accompanied by Dr. Tim Williams (Institute of Archaeology, UCL) and a team of UCL researchers, undertook a mission to Bhutan and organized a National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop at the National Library, Thimphu, Bhutan from 20 to 22 August 2014.

As a direct follow-up to the previous consultation meeting (24 November–1 December 2013) with the Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, in line with the current UNESCO/Republic of Korea FIT project activities, and as agreed with the Bhutanese authorities and the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, a three-day workshop was undertaken from 20 to 22 August 2014. The primary aim of this workshop was to explore strategies for the development of a National Inventory system for Bhutan. A National Inventory system is a fundamental platform for increasing and disseminating awareness of national heritage, as well as developing approaches to improve the protection of heritage within the nation. Furthermore, it underpins the selection and management of monuments, sites, and landscapes as part of any World Heritage nomination process.

The above-mentioned workshop engaged staff from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS) under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) as trainees, and a team from the UCL Institute of Archaeology as trainers. The workshop was organized with support of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in New Delhi.

There was a detailed discussion on the need for and aims of a National Inventory system for Bhutan. A general agreement was reached on both the importance of the development and its aims. These can be broadly summarized as follows:

1. To disseminate information and raise awareness of cultural heritage sites in Bhutan among both national and international audiences;
2. To create a knowledge-based context for the preservation, promotion, and management of cultural heritage in Bhutan;
3. To document the condition, state of conservation, management planning, and changing circumstances of heritage in Bhutan;
4. To provide a robust underpinning for the selection of monuments, sites, and landscapes for any potential World Heritage nomination.

It was agreed that the inventory should reflect the three categories of cultural heritage specified in the current draft legislation (*Heritage Sites Bill of Bhutan*):

- Heritage Buildings (including sub-categories of religious buildings, vernacular architecture, etc.)
- Archaeological Sites
- Cultural Sites (which encompass landscape areas and agglomerations of historic and archaeological elements)

It was agreed that the ARCHES system (developed into an international bespoke heritage inventory platform, based on heritage inventories in the Middle East, and developed with the support of the Getty Conservation Institute and the World Monuments Fund) provided an acceptable platform for Bhutan to develop a National Inventory. The system, albeit requiring some customization, was adaptable to the specific needs of Bhutan, and considerably more cost effective and easier to implement than developing a new custom-built application.

A way forward with the development of the system was discussed and agreed upon in principle. This comprised an operational system, to be tested by the spring of 2015, and a fully functioning system for more intensive data entry/digitisation, to be made operational by the autumn of 2015. It was noted that the scale of work to add data to the system and the ability to deliver a sufficient body of data to the general public would depend on the scale of resources available for data entry, scanning and checking, and that it is likely to be a long-term activity. As a result, the necessity for the DCHS to establish a clear set of priorities, based on the expected development challenges facing Bhutan, was noted.

The issue of boundaries and buffer zones was discussed and the use of GIS modelling facilities was suggested as a means of relating work on the National Inventory to the nomination strategy.

The possible heritage routes and sites/monuments/landscapes in Bhutan were discussed. The National Inventory system will be important to provide a platform to discuss site selection. It was also recognized that Bhutan currently has limited documentation on pre-17th century sites, and that the identification of specific sites and landscapes would likely take some time. Indeed, there are numerous challenges with regard to developing a Silk Roads strategy for Bhutan, the most fundamental being the lack of current research on pre-17th century archaeology, which makes the identification of heritage routes/sites/monuments/landscapes for inclusion difficult at this stage.

Nevertheless, the potential is clearly high: modern-day Bhutan occupied a crucial strategic position on the routes both from Tibetan Sichuan and Yunan (e.g. Tea Horse routes) and from Tibet down the “southern valley” systems (e.g. Salt routes) to India and Bangladesh. The foundation of early monastic settlements (e.g. the documentary sources suggesting the foundation of the mediation centre at Taktsang Palphug Monastery in the 8th century CE; or the foundation of Choedrak Monastery in the 12th century and of Phajoding monastery in the 13th century) attest the development of settlement pattern in the fertile valleys of Bhutan that significantly pre-dates the current monuments. The Dzongs constructed as part of the unification of Bhutan after 1616 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel were evidently securing existing polities in the important valley systems of western and central Bhutan.

There are some fundamental research issues with pre-17th century elements of the National Inventory, not least due to the limited amount of archaeological work and the concomitant problems of understanding early material culture. There is a lack of research into ceramics, dating evidence, etc., despite the apparent continuity of material traditions in cooking vessels. The use of metalwork and wood for high-prestige goods and the use of leather sacks for storage, all of which badly survive the test of time, lead to issues with the archaeological records. However, significant quantities of ceramics were recovered during the recent Swiss-Bhutanese project (Yeshi Samdrup), which suggests that it may well be possible to develop a regional ceramic sequence. In the addition, the recently published research on Ogyen Choling (Choden & Roder, 2012) demonstrates the complexity of landscapes and heritage routes, and the ability of local studies to begin to understand the development of earlier settlement landscapes.



Figure 21. Bhutan - Examining 3D photographic software and scanning options



Figure 22. Possible heritage routes through and near Bhutan, based on later sites controlling mountain valleys and passes.

b. National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop (11 – 17 February 2016)

As a follow-up to the 2014 workshop and the activities implemented in 2015, a second National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop took place in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 11 to 17 February 2016, with 8 participants from the Department of Culture of Bhutan, and was facilitated by Mr. Bryan Alvey from UCL, as the cultural heritage information consultant. The workshop focused on the application of the ARCHES heritage inventory system for the heritage sites in Bhutan.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- familiarize the Bhutanese team with the ARCHES database;
- discuss the entities available in the ARCHES database;
- discuss the concepts behind the ARCHES database (including thesauri);
- give hands-on training in the use of ARCHES;
- decide if any elements of Bhutanese management practice were absent from ARCHES;
- propose customizations of ARCHES in order to facilitate management practice;
- familiarize IT staff with the technical aspects required to support ARCHES.

In line with the objectives of the workshop, the participants of the workshop were shown a series of PowerPoint presentations which outlined the nature of each of the entities available within the ARCHES system: Historic Resource, Historic District (known as Monument in the system), Historic Event, Actor, Activity Resource, and Information Resource. Members of the Bhutanese staff compared the database fields for each of these entities to their existing management documentation, in order to understand how to best fit ARCHES within their current management practices. Most of the ARCHES elements matched extremely well with current Bhutanese recording practices, lacking only the elements that recorded the

process of applications for conservation work, and the plot status of the historic resources (something perhaps unique to Bhutan).

The PowerPoint presentations covered every field of every entity in the ARCHES database and the Bhutanese staff was able to see how its own material might be fed into the database. Many of these fields are controlled by dropdown lists, using controlled vocabularies holding the standard terms allowed for entries.

This led to a discussion about the importance of thesauri of agreed terms, which would be fundamental to the Bhutan inventory. Discussions were undertaken as to how thesauri can be used to provide standardized input to improve the integrity of the database; how thesauri can be best compiled before the database is used on a day-to-day basis; and how a comprehensive thesaurus can provide a richer resource for the user.

The Bhutanese team agreed that one of their members would act as a conduit for new thesaurus terms: she will be responsible for entering new terms into the ARCHES system, once these have been agreed by the management team. It was also agreed that the Bhutanese team would devote sufficient time to developing the controlled elements in ARCHES, in order to populate the dropdown lists with terms relevant to Bhutan before live data is entered.

The Bhutanese staff members were given hands-on training in the second half of the workshop, entering a number of resources, then editing and deleting them, until the users were confident using forms in ARCHES to enter resources.

Throughout the workshop, the Bhutanese assessed the elements offered by ARCHES and compared them with their current recording systems. Many discussions took place as to which resources in ARCHES might best be used to hold the information needed by the Bhutanese. During this process, the Bhutanese were able to establish which elements were absent from the resources provided by ARCHES. These primarily involved:

- Information on applications for conservation and restoration from the owners of historic buildings;
- The plot status for the land on which historic buildings were located;
- Some changes to labels and headings in the ARCHES forms.

The Bhutanese team worked with the facilitator to see how best to incorporate these features into the ARCHES system. It was agreed that a new form should be added to the Historic Resource (and possibly the Historic District Resource), and that the location form should be amended to incorporate land plot information. A rough outline for the design of these forms was proposed. It is considered essential that these additions be incorporated before the ARCHES application as early as possible.



Figure 23. Presentation session at the Bhutan workshop



Figure 24. Hands-on training and discussion, Bhutan

India:

Expert mission for the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project (1–3 December 2013)

Dr. Tim Williams (UCL), the international expert, undertook, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, a two-day consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The staff of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and the international expert reviewed India's Silk Roads Tentative List with the ASI. They also took the opportunity to discuss India's role in the potential transboundary activities under the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT Project with Bhutan, China, and Nepal, particularly in developing mechanisms for enhanced cooperation and dialogue between the four States Parties involved in the project, as well as garnering India's input on the South Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination Strategy. The meeting also succeeded in involving both the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and the ASI in an ongoing project.

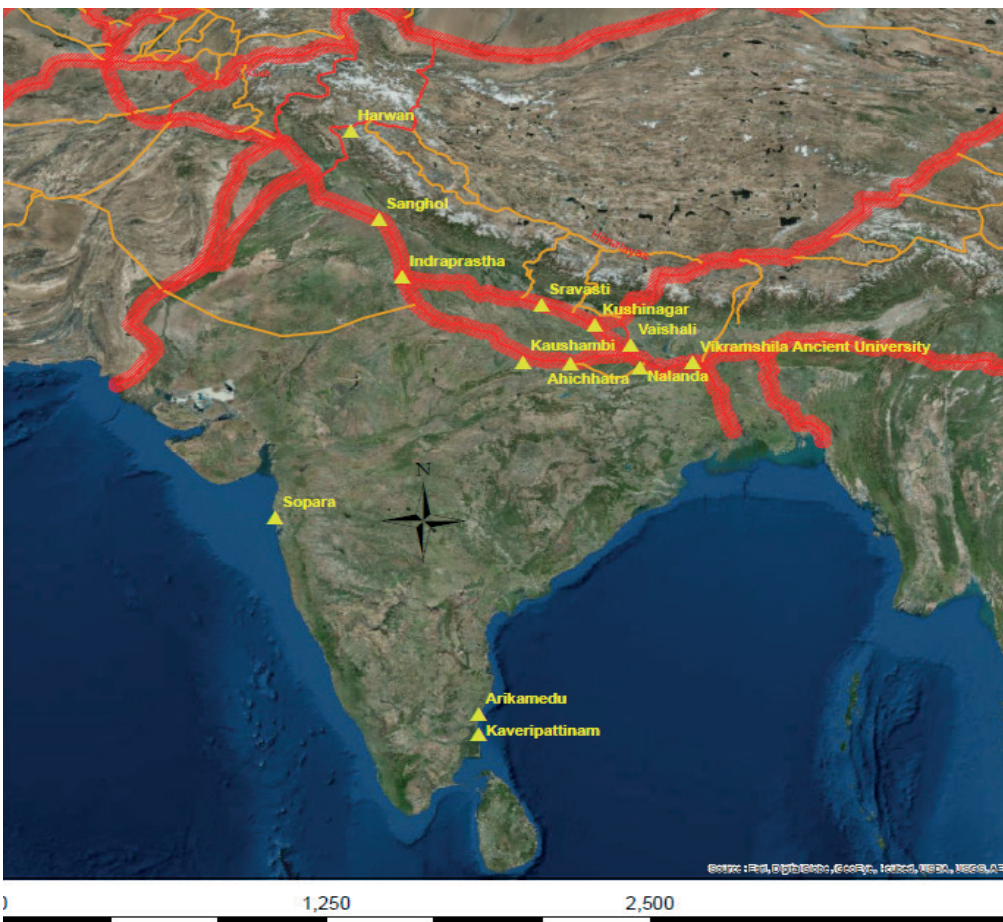


Figure 25. Indian Silk Roads Tentative List sites (2010).

Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016

In 2016, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the UNESCO Field Offices in Kathmandu and New Delhi, launched an initiative to present a comprehensive report on the results achieved under the current UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project, focusing on the technical aspects of the activities implemented within the project's framework.

In chronological order, the 124-page report, edited by Dr Roland Lin (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) and Dr Tim Williams (UCL) systematically recorded the activities undertaken and the results achieved under the current project. The technicality of the report is considered a necessary complement to the current institutional report, in order to allow for a holistic understanding of the activities undertaken in the 2013-2016 period.

III. Difficulties and Problems Encountered, Measures Taken and Changes in Implementation

While the current project has been largely successful in achieving its objectives and effectively completing its programmed activities (notably the many workshops and missions to the South Asian Silk Roads sites), there were several unforeseen challenges which impeded or delayed some aspects of project implementation.

A. Earthquakes of April–May 2015 in Nepal

Due to urgent priorities pertaining to recovery measures following the severe earthquakes that hit Nepal on 25 April and 12 May 2015, causing extensive damage to many heritage sites in Nepal, it is difficult for Nepal to undertake the bilateral meetings with India and China for the establishment of a steering committee and working group.

B. Request for a no-cost extension of the project period

The aforementioned challenges linked to recovery measures following the severe earthquakes in Nepal led to a no-cost extension request on 15 January 2016 from the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu, on behalf of the Department of Archaeology of Nepal.

Two key reasons provided by Nepal are listed as below:

1. In line with the recent Almaty Agreement adopted during the 4th Silk Roads Coordination Committee Meeting in Almaty (Kazakhstan) and the short workshop/discussion in Almaty about “South Asian Silk Roads” for Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal, the DoA of Nepal requested to have more time to consult and work with neighbouring countries.
2. In the meantime, the DoA was working hard for the emergency heritage rehabilitation actions after the 2015 earthquakes. With limited human resources at the DoA, the implementation of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FIT South Silk Roads project activities in Nepal has been delayed.

Besides the implementation activities in Nepal, the planned training activities for inventory and GIS mapping and Silk Roads related activities in Bhutan have also been postponed from December 2015, as originally planned, to late February 2016. Both the Department of Culture of Bhutan and the University College London international facilitators’ team requested UNESCO to grant them some time in order to complete the reporting after the training activities of late February 2016. For Bhutan, additional time was also needed to wind up the project implementation and reporting.

C. Recommended continuation of the current project

In light of the need to further support the preparation for the World Heritage serial nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, based on discussions with related partners in South Asia, international experts, and UNESCO Field Offices, **Phase II of this ongoing project is highly recommended.** For this purpose, UNESCO has prepared a Concept Note for UNESCO Korean FIT Project (2017-2019): Support for the Asian Silk Road World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II), for review and approval of the Donor (See Annex XII).

IV. Project Results Achieved and Indicators in accordance with the Log Frame

Highlights of the project results achieved over the three-year course of the project are listed and discussed below. The complete results of the project, in accordance with the log frame, have been elaborated in the results matrix and presented below.

A. Consultation meetings and mission in Bhutan

The consultation meetings and mission in Bhutan (24 November–1 December 2013) introduced the Bhutanese authorities to the current project framework for the preparation of World Heritage serial and transnational nomination of Silk Roads in South Asia, and discussed Bhutan's potential involvement in the project. The meeting engaged about 20 staff from different ministries of Bhutan as well as from Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO. In addition, the mission team undertook several visits to potential sites near Thimphu, Bhutan, in efforts to establish practical methods for the Bhutanese involvement in the nomination process. Overall, the consultation meeting and mission in Bhutan set out the preparatory framework for Bhutan's participation to the current project, by assessing the current capacity of Bhutan's national authorities and experts, as well as identifying the needs for further capacity-building in Bhutan. It also established contacts between the Bhutanese authorities and the International expert, Dr Tim Williams, for further consultation and assistance, if needed.



Figure 26. Meeting between His Excellency Damcho Dorji (Minister of Foreign Affairs; former Minister for Home & Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan), Dr. Roland Lin (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) and Dr. Tim Williams (University College London)

B. Sub-regional workshop in Nepal, with the participation of representatives from Bhutan, Nepal, India and China

The Sub-Regional Workshop on the Nomination Strategy and Guidance for the South Asian Silk Roads, from 23 to 24 September 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal, brought together some 80 participants in total, including national representatives and experts from the four South Asian countries of Bhutan, China and India, an international expert, UNESCO representatives, and about 60 national participants from the host country, Nepal. As a result, an Action Plan was drafted, discussed, and agreed upon in view of the possible submission, by 1 February 2018, of the first South Asian transnational heritage corridor(s) nomination.



Figure 27 The participants at the Kathmandu sub-regional workshop on the nomination strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads, September 2014.

C. Concept paper on the South Asian Silk Roads

The South Asian State Parties decide to use the framework set out by the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study and therefore consider that there is no need to draft another concept paper. Instead, there is a need to develop a guidance document on World Heritage nomination strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads. As a result, the *South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy* was produced, which reviewed existing data and suggested possible approaches for the South Asian State Parties to advance the serial transboundary Silk Roads World Heritage nomination process. This Nomination Strategy for the South Asian Silk Road has been discussed, reviewed and adopted in the above-mentioned September 2014 Kathmandu sub-regional workshop.

D. Fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads

The 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (23–27 November 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan) brought together National Focal Points and experts from the twelve countries member of the Silk Roads Coordination Committee (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) as well as other partner countries (Bhutan, Pakistan and Turkey).

The meeting reviewed the progress of the Silk Road World Heritage Nominations processes, considered the potential need of a further development on the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study to cover Eastern Asia and Western Asia.

Furthermore, the meeting invited ICOMOS and other related international experts as resource persons to present together with UNESCO staff the ongoing international Silk Roads activities. Their participation ensured the discussions on further technical assistance and cooperation.

As a result of this meeting, Pakistan and Turkey became new members of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, and Bhutan joined as an observer. So far, the Coordinating Committee includes 14 state members (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), with Bhutan as an observer.



Figure 28. The participants at the 4th meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, in Almaty, Kazakhstan: 23-27 November 2015.

E. Additional activities

1. Consultation meetings for the approved UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project in Nepal (27 October–3 November 2013)

The consultation meetings involved staff from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu, the Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation of Nepal, and other Nepali authorities and experts for the planning and execution of activities under the current UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project, within both the national and South Asian sub-regional scope. As a result of these consultation meetings, the establishment of an inter-departmental Silk Roads National Coordinating Committee in Nepal was proposed, to be tasked with organizing follow-up activities and ensuring the further development of inventory, documentation, and capacity building in Nepal.

2. Establishment of the National Coordination Committee for Silk Roads in Nepal (2014)

A National Coordination Committee (working team) for the Silk Roads was established in January 2014

to oversee the national Silk Roads activities in Nepal. The Coordination Committee included staff from the DoA, representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, and other invited national experts, institutions, relevant government departments, and UNESCO. It met on an ad-hoc basis to review the work in progress and discuss the way forward. In April 2014, a Focal Point within the National Coordination Committee was designated to advance and facilitate the South Asian Silk Roads-related activities and in-house consultations.

3. Field Expedition to the Lumbini-Mustang Heritage Corridor in Nepal (26–30 January 2015)

The field expedition to the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor in Nepal examined and assessed sites along the potential South Asian Silk Roads heritage corridors in Nepal, mainly the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor, which Nepal considers of high priority. Many challenges were identified in developing the Nepali section of the Silk Roads. As a result, three main areas of activities were proposed to Nepal, i.e. inventory and capacity-building, legal system for the protection of the Silk Roads, and potential updating of the Tentative List. The DoA benefited from the Silk Roads heritage corridors field explorations and learnt to better understand the issues involved in nominating future Silk Roads heritage corridors in the context of Nepal.

4. National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop in Bhutan (20–22 August 2014)

The workshop involved staff from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS) under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) as trainees and a team from the UCL Institute of Archaeology as trainers. In-depth discussions were held concerning the need for and aim of a National Inventory system for Bhutan, and a general agreement was reached on both the importance and aims of a Bhutanese National Inventory.

It was agreed that the ARCHES system, with some necessary customization, would provide an acceptable platform for Bhutan to develop a National Inventory. A way forward with the development of the system was discussed and agreed upon in principle, with an operational system ready for testing by the spring of 2015 and an operational, fully functioning system for more intensive data entry/digitisation by the autumn of 2015. The scale of work to add data to the system and the ability to deliver a sufficient body of data to the general public will depend on the scale of resources available for data entry, scanning and checking, and will likely be a long-term activity. As a result, it will be essential that the DCHS establish a clear set of priorities, based on the expected development challenges facing Bhutan.

5. National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop in Bhutan (11–17 February 2016)

As a follow-up to the 2014 workshop and the activities implemented in 2015, the second National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop involved 8 participants from the Department of Culture of Bhutan and was facilitated by Bryan Alvey from UCL as the cultural heritage information consultant. The workshop focused on the implementation of the ARCHES heritage inventory system for heritage sites in Bhutan and helped the Bhutanese team familiarise themselves with the ARCHES database by imparting hands-on training. The workshop also helped identify elements in Bhutanese heritage management practice that were absent from the ARCHES system and proposed necessary customizations in order to accommodate the unique elements of Bhutan's management practices.

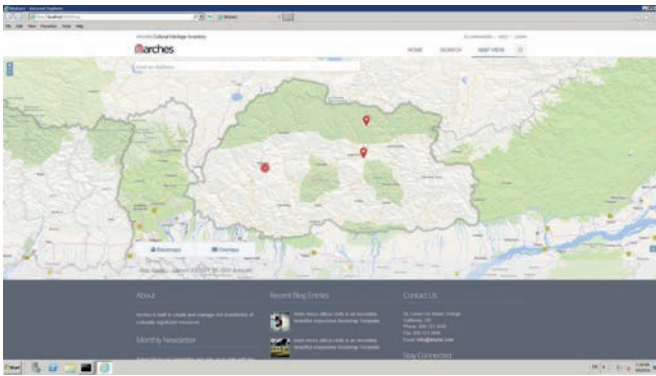


Figure 29. Front page of ARCHES for Bhutan.



Figure 30. Participants at the February 2016 workshop on National Heritage Inventories, held at the Office of Department of Culture, Thimphu, Bhutan.

6. Expert mission for the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project in India (1 – 3 December 2013)

In cooperation with UNESCO Office in New Delhi, international expert Dr. Tim Williams (UCL) undertook a two-day consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The staff of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and the international expert reviewed India's Silk Roads Tentative List with the ASI. They also took the opportunity to discuss India's role in the potential transboundary activities under the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project with Bhutan, China, and Nepal, particularly in developing mechanisms for enhanced cooperation and dialogue between the four States Parties involved in the project. The mission was also an opportunity to garner India's input on the South Asian Silk Roads World Heritage nomination strategy, and it successfully involved both the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and the ASI into this on-going project.

7. Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016

In chronological order, the 124-page report systematically recorded the activities undertaken and results achieved under the current project, focusing on the technical aspects of the activities implemented within the framework of this project. The technicality of the report is considered a necessary complement to the present institutional report, in order to allow for a holistic understanding of the activities undertaken in the period of 2013-2016.

V. Results Matrix

SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTIVES (intended)	ACHIEVEMENTS (results)	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
1. A consultation meeting and mission in Bhutan	A consultation meeting and a mission were carried out in Bhutan (24 November–1 December 2013), introducing the Bhutanese authorities to the current project framework and discussing Bhutan's potential involvement in the project.	<p>1. 20 staff from different Ministries of Bhutan as well as the Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO attended the meeting.</p> <p>2. Contact was established between the Bhutanese authorities and international expert Dr Tim Williams, for further consultation and assistance, if required.</p>	<p>1. Progress made on Silk Roads-related activities in Bhutan.</p> <p>2. Mission Report; Final Project Report.</p>
2. A sub-regional workshop in Nepal	A sub-regional workshop on the nomination strategy and guidance for the South Asian Silk Roads (23–24 September 2014) took place in Kathmandu, Nepal, leading to the production of an Action Plan in view of the possible submission, by 1 February 2018, of the first South Asian transnational heritage corridor(s) nomination.	80 participants in total attended the workshop, including national representatives and experts from the four South Asian countries of Bhutan, China, India and Nepal, an international expert, UNESCO representatives, and about 60 national participants from the host country.	<p>1. Action Plan in view of the possible submission, by 1 February 2018, of the first South Asian transnational heritage corridor(s) nomination.</p> <p>2. Workshop Report; Final Project Report.</p>

<p>3. Concept paper on the South Asian Silk Roads</p>	<p>The intended concept paper was replaced by the <i>South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy</i></p>	<p>The 16-page document reviewed existing data and suggested possible approaches for the South Asian State Parties to progress with the serial transboundary Silk Roads World Heritage nomination process.</p>	<p>Publication of <i>South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy</i>.</p>
<p>4. Fourth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads</p>	<p>The 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (23–27 November 2015) was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting reviewed the progress of the Silk Road World Heritage Nominations processes, considered the potential need of a further development on the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study to cover Eastern Asia and Western Asia. As a result of this meeting, Pakistan and Turkey became new members of the Coordinating Committee and Bhutan joined as an observer.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National focal points and experts from the twelve country members of the Silk Roads Coordination Committee (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) as well as other partner countries (Bhutan, Pakistan and Turkey) attended the meeting. 2. Representatives from UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, and other international experts presented at the meeting as resource persons. 	<p>Meeting Report; Final Project Report.</p>

<p>5. Consultation meetings for the approved UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project in Nepal</p>	<p>The consultation meetings were carried out in Nepal from 27 October to 3 November 2013. The meetings proposed the establishment of an inter-departmental Silk Roads National Coordinating Committee in Nepal, to be tasked with organizing follow-up activities and ensuring further development of inventorying, documentation, and capacity-building activities in Nepal.</p>	<p>Staff from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu, the Department of Archaeology (DoA) under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation of Nepal, and other Nepali authorities and experts attended the meetings.</p>	<p>Meeting Report; Final Project Report.</p>
<p>6. Establishment of the National Coordination Committee for Silk Roads in Nepal</p>	<p>1. A National Coordination Committee (working team) for the Silk Roads was established in January 2014 to oversee the national Silk Roads activities in Nepal.</p> <p>2. A Focal Point was established within the National Coordination Committee in April 2014 to advance and facilitate the South Asian Silk Roads-related activities and in-house consultations.</p>	<p>The Coordination Committee included staff from the DoA, representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, and other invited national experts, institutions, relevant government departments of Nepal, and UNESCO. It met several times and on an ad-hoc basis to review the work in progress and discuss the way forward.</p>	<p>Meeting Report; Final Project Report.</p>

<p>7. Field expedition to the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor in Nepal</p>	<p>The field expedition was carried out on 26–30 January 2015 in Nepal. Many challenges were identified in developing the Nepali section of the Silk Roads and a way forward was proposed and agreed upon with Nepal, including the building of a national inventory, the enhancement of legal protection for heritage, and updates to the current Tentative List.</p>	<p>1. Two representatives from the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu and two staff members from the Department of Archaeology (DoA) of Nepal, accompanied by a leading Silk Roads expert in Nepal, participated in the field mission.</p> <p>2. A number of sites along the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor were visited and assessed for their potential to be included in the Silk Roads heritage corridor(s).</p>	<p>Mission Report ;</p> <p>Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016;</p> <p>Final Project Report.</p>
<p>8. National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshops in Bhutan</p>	<p>1. The first workshop was organized in Bhutan on 20–22 August 2014. There was a detailed discussion on the need for and the aim of a National Inventory system for Bhutan. An agreement was reached on the use of the ARCHES system, with some necessary customizations, to build the Bhutanese national inventory.</p> <p>2. The second workshop was organized in Bhutan on 11–17 February 2016. The workshop familiarized the Bhutanese team with the ARCHES database and imparted hands-on training.</p>	<p>1. Staff from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS) under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) participated in the first workshop as trainees and a team from the UCL Institute of Archaeology as trainers.</p> <p>2. Eight participants from the Department of Culture of Bhutan attended the second workshop, facilitated by Bryan Alvey.</p>	<p>1. Development on the National Inventory system in Bhutan.</p> <p>2. Workshop Reports;</p> <p>Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016;</p> <p>Final Project Report.</p>

<p>9. Expert mission for the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project in India</p>	<p>The mission was carried out in India from 1 to 3 December 2013. India's role in the potential transboundary activities under the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project was discussed, particularly with regard to the development of mechanisms for enhanced cooperation and dialogue with China, Bhutan, and Nepal.</p>	<p>The international expert, Dr. Tim Williams, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, undertook a two-day consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).</p> <p>The mission involved both the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and the ASI in the ongoing project.</p>	<p>Mission Reports;</p> <p>Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016;</p> <p>Final Project Report.</p>
<p>10. Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project</p>	<p>The <i>Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016</i> was produced.</p>	<p>The 134-page report systematically recorded the activities undertaken and results achieved under the current project, focusing on technical aspects of the activities implemented within the project's framework.</p>	<p>Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016;</p> <p>Final Project Report.</p>

VI. Lessons Learnt and Sustainability

The current UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project for supporting the preparation for the Silk Roads World Heritage serial and transnational nomination in South Asia has achieved significant success. It has notably exceeded its stated objectives by resulting in seven additional activities in South Asia, with a particular emphasis on building national capacities and developing sub-regional/international partnerships for sustained dialogue and cooperation among the State Parties concerned.

Nevertheless, the challenges which this project has faced—notably the varying capacities and involvement of the concerned States Parties—underline the importance of ensuring dialogue and cooperation between States Parties and of building sustainable partnerships at all levels. To do so, it is necessary that UNESCO continue to analyse the capacities of individual State Parties to participate when designing future projects, and that it develop timelines tailored to each of the States Parties that wish to be involved. It is equally necessary that UNESCO do everything possible to encourage and facilitate dialogue and cooperation among all the related State Parties, particularly China and India, to allow for further progress with the World Heritage serial and transnational nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia. However, sustaining such cooperation is also contingent on the availability of adequate funds to support regular visits of State Parties to one another in order to develop the necessary human networks.

VII. Evaluation Recommendations

Although significant progress has been made with the preparation of the World Heritage serial nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, the complexity of the South Asian Silk Roads in terms of research, documentation, inventorying and conservation requires continuous efforts to build capacities at the level of the national authorities in South Asia. Hence, it is recommended that the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project continue to provide financial and technical support to the South Asian State Parties in a second phase of this project.

In this context, UNESCO, in close consultation with the South Asian State Parties concerned, has prepared a Project Document for Phase II of the Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s). The Project Document proposes that the following main activities be undertaken:

1. Support UNESCO and ICOMOS to further extend the Silk Roads Thematic Study to Eastern and Northern Asia, including Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Japan, as well as to Western Asia with active support from the participating countries;
2. Provision of technical and financial support to Asian Developing Countries for their active participation in the future Silk Roads Coordinating Committee Meeting(s) on the Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads;
3. Organisation of workshops and/or meetings to agree, between the Asian State Parties concerned, on priority transnational heritage corridors for the Silk Roads nomination process;
4. Provision of technical and financial support for the creation of an Expert Group of Delegates from Asian State Parties, in collaboration with UNESCO and the IICC-Xi'an, the Secretariat of the Coordination Committee, through virtual communications, and when necessary through workshops and meetings for scientific monitoring the preparation process;
5. Provision of technical and financial support for the enhancement of technical capacities through the designation of National Project Managers/Focal Points by the Governments, UNESCO National Commissions, or relevant authorities within each participating Asian State Party, for the preparation of the nominations (both at national and transnational levels);

6. Provision of technical and financial support for the development and implementation of an appropriate management system for the identified Silk Roads nominations (both at national and transnational levels);
7. Provision of technical and financial support for the elaboration/compilation of serial and transnational nomination(s) for the Silk Roads.

VIII. Visibility

The implementing and supporting agencies are acknowledged in all activities and reports related to the project. The activities have been documented and disseminated, both through images and written reports, via the UNESCO/WHC network, the WHC website, and publications; via the networks and websites of UNESCO Field Offices; via the networks of partner institutions and other stakeholders.

List of relevant web pages:

- UNESCO WHC Website
 - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1104/>
 - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1193/>
 - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1267/>
 - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1415/>
 - UNESCO Kathmandu
 - http://www.unesco.org/new/en/kathmandu/about-this-office/single-view/news/delegates_from_bhutan_china_india_and_nepal_meet_with_unesco_experts_in_kathmandu_to_prepare_the_first_south_asian_silk_roads_transnational_world_heritage_nomination/#.V6MZAfI97cs
 - http://www.unesco.org/new/en/kathmandu/about-this-office/single-view/news/preparation_of_the_first_south_asian_transnational_heritage_corridor_for_world_heritage_nomination_draft_action_plan_approved/#.VNzZTyygsXE
 - UNESCO Almaty
 - <http://www.unesco.kz/new/en/unesco/news/3001/>
 - UN Nepal Information Platform
 - <http://www.un.org.np/headlines/delegates-bhutan-china-india-and-nepal-meet-unesco-experts-kathmandu-prepare-first-south-0>
 - UCL Website
 - <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/calendar/articles/2014-15-news/20140930>
 - <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/calendar/articles/2013-14/20140912>
 - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/impact/case-study-repository/transforming-silk-roads-archaeology>
 - IICC-X Website
 - <http://www.iicc.org.cn/Info.aspx?ModelId=1&Id=825>
- See also Annex VIII: Selected Evidence of Visibility.

IX. List of Annexes

- I. List of documents produced during the project period
- II. List of national and international staff
- III. Ashgabat Agreement (May, 2011)
- IV. Selected pages of the ICOMOS Thematic Study on the Silk Roads (2014)
- V. Action Plan of the First South Asian Priority Transnational Heritage Corridor(s) (September 2014)
- VI. South Asia Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy (December 2014)
- VII. List of major equipment provided under the project
- VIII. Selected evidence of visibility
- IX. World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 10B.1 (June 2015)
- X. Almaty Agreement (November 2015)
- XI. Annex XI: Minutes of the Workshop discussion on “South Asian Silk Roads” for Bhutan, China, India and Nepal (November 2015)
- XII. Concept Note for UNESCO Korean FIT Project (2017-2019): Support for the Asian Silk Road World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II) (June 2016)

Annex I: List of Documents produced during the project period

Support for Documentation Standards and Procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in South Asia, 2013-2016				
No.	Date	Title	Author	Pages
Reports				
1	July 2016	Final Technical Report on the Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project: Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia, 2013-2016	Compiled and Edited by: Tim Williams, Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL); Roland Lin Chih-Hung, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Gai Jorayev (UCL)	124
2	June 2016	Concept Note for UNESCO/ Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project (2017-2019): Support for the Asian Silk Road World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II)	Roland Lin (UNESCO, WHC, Asia and Pacific Unit)	6
3	November 2015	Minutes of the Workshop discussion on “South Asian Silk Roads” for Bhutan, China, India and Nepal	Roland Lin (UNESCO, WHC, Asia and Pacific Unit)	1
4	October 2015	2015 Progress Report for UNESCO/ Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust, “Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia” (2013-2016)	Roland Lin (UNESCO, WHC, Asia and Pacific Unit), Moe Chiba (UNESCO New Delhi) and Nipuna Shrestha (UNESCO Kathmandu)	21
5	October 2015	Bhutan National Heritage Inventory Proposal	Tim Williams Institute of Archaeology, UCL	6

6	March 2015	Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in Nepal	Department of Archaeology Silk Road Unit Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Ramshahpath, Kathmandu, Nepal	20
7	February 2015	Progress Report for UNESCO/ Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust, "Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia" (2013-2016)	Roland Lin (UNESCO, WHC, Asia and Pacific Unit), Moe Chiba (UNESCO New Delhi) and Nipuna Shrestha (UNESCO Kathmandu)	13
8	December 2014	South Asia Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy	Tim Williams Institute of Archaeology, UCL	21
9	December 2014	Recommendations for the South Asian Silk Roads	Tim Williams Institute of Archaeology, UCL	3
10	September 2014	Action Plan of the First South Asian Priority Transnational Heritage Corridor(s)		3
11	August 2014	Bhutan National Heritage Inventory Draft Forward Plan Report	UCL team, in consultation with the DCHS, Compiled by Tim Williams	13
12	February 2014	Progress Report for UNESCO/ Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust, "Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia" (2013-2016)	Roland Lin and Ian Dull (UNESCO, WHC, Asia and Pacific Unit)	9
Proceedings, PPTs and Notes from Meetings and Workshops				
1	April 2016	Bhutan National Inventory Project Report of activities, including February 2016 workshop	Tim Williams Institute of Archaeology University College London	20
2	February 2016	Bhutan Series 1 Powerpoint An Introduction to ARCHES	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	9
3	February 2016	Bhutan Series 2 Powerpoint What Arches Gives You: The Main Entities of Arches	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	11

4	February 2016	Working with Arches (2) Powerpoint The Reference Data Manager	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	26
5	February 2016	Working with Arches Powerpoint Adding Locations to your records	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	10
6	February 2016	Bhutan Series Day 3 Powerpoint Working with Arches Adding Media (Images)	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	13
7	February 2016	Bhutan Series Day 3 Powerpoint Working with Arches Adding Media (Documents)	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	12
8	February 2016	Bhutan Series Tech Day Intro Powerpoint The Programs that control Arches	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	4
9	February 2016	Bhutan Series Day 3 Powerpoint Maintaining Arches, Installing Arches and Other Technical Tasks	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	11
10	February 2016	Bhutan Series Tech Day Powerpoint What's in Arches: The Arches Directory Structure	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	6
11	February 2016	Bhutan Series 2016 Powerpoint How to Add an Information Resource	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	35
12	February 2016	Draft Agenda for Workshop 1: ARCHES and the National Inventory of Bhutan	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	4
13	February, 2016	Bhutan Series Powerpoint A General Introduction to Arches	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	8

14	February 2016	Bhutan Series 2016 Tech Day Powerpoint The Google Cloud 104.155.208.178	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	22
15	February 2016	Bhutan Series Powerpoint How to Add an Activity	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	33
16	February 2016	Bhutan Series Powerpoint How to Add an Actor (Person or Organisation)	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	17
17	February 2016	Bhutan Series Powerpoint How to Add a Historic Resource	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	75
18	February 2016	Bhutan Series Powerpoint How to Add a Monument Resource	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	70
19	February 2016	Bhutan Series Powerpoint How to Enter a Historic Event	Tim Williams and Bryan Alvey, UCL	34
20	November 2015	Launching the UNESCO/Japanese FIT project “Support for the Central Asia Silk Roads World Heritage Sites ” (Phase II) & Progress of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust Project for the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in South Asia	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	38
21	November 2015	Introduction of the nomination project, Objectives of the Meeting	Dr Feng Jing, Chief, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	65
22	November 2015	Communication, Promotion, Prosperity from the Nomination of the Silk Roads -Viewpoints from Chang’an-Tianshan Corridor	Feng Jian, Deputy Director of IICC-X	16

23	November 2015	Silk Roads Activities : Progress Status of Nepal	Suresh S. Shrestha, Chief, Archaeological Officer (Under – Secretary) Focal Point for Serial World Heritage Nomination of Silk Roads Activities in Nepal	54
24	November 2015	South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy	Tim Williams, UCL	28
25	September 2014	Cultural Transfers on the ancient Trade Route through Mustang linking the Silk Road with the Gangetic Plains	Susanne von der Heide, HimalAsia Foundation	51
26	September 2014	Historical and Cultural Significance of Nepal's "Heritage-Corridor" in the South Asian Silk Roads	Dr. Dina Bangdel, Department of Art History, Virginia Commonwealth University-Qatar	26
27	September 2014	South Asian Silk Roads: Draft Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy	Tim Williams, UCL	27
28	September 2014	Progress of the Silk Roads Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nominations	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	83
29	September 2014	The Silk Roads ICOMOS thematic study	Tim Williams, UCL	62
30	September 2014	Silk Roads Activities : Current Status of Nepal	Suresh S. Shrestha, Chief, Archaeological Officer (Under – Secretary) Focal Point for Serial World Heritage Nomination of Silk Roads Activities in Nepal	41
31	September 2014	Significance of Kaligandaki River valley in Silk Road South Asia	Sukra Sagar Shrestha, Silk Roads National Expert, Nepal	102
32	September 2014	South Asian Corridors of Silk Roads Connecting India	Dr B.R. Mani, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India	35
33	September 2014	Bhutan: Sub-Regional Workshop On Nomination Strategy For The South Asia Silk Roads	Department of Culture, Bhutan	26

34	September 2014	South Asian Silk Road in China	LYU Zhou, National Heritage Center, Tsinghua University & ICOMOS-China	67
35	August 2014	Programme of the National Inventory and Silk Roads Workshop in Bhutan	UCL team, in consultation with the DCHS, Compiled by Tim Williams	2
36	November 2013	The World Heritage Inscription Process and Site Nomination Possibilities (for the workshop on “World Heritage” and “Serial Nomination of Silk Roads in South Asia” organized on 28 November 2013 in Thimphu, Bhutan)	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	7
37	October 2013	The World Heritage, State of Conservation Powerpoint for the Department of Archaeology, Nepal Coordination World Heritage Committee on Operational Guidelines	Dr. Roland LIN Programme Specialist Asia and the Pacific Unit UNESCO WHC	16
38	February 2013	The World Heritage State of Conservation	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	6
Mission Reports				
1	December 2015	Travel Report on Mission to Almaty, Kazakhstan (23-27 November 2015) for facilitation of the 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	17
2	January 2015	Travel Report on Mission to Silk Roads heritage corridor from Lumbini To Ghansa, Nepal	Nipuna Shrestha, UNESCO Office in Kathmandu	7
3	October 2014	Travel Report on Mission to Bhutan (Thimphu & Paro), 16 to 24 August 2014	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	6

4	October 2014	Travel Report on Mission to Kathmandu Nepal (22-26 September 2014) for facilitation the South Asian Silk Roads sub-regional meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal foreseen from 23-26 September 2014	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	33
5	October 2014	Travel Report on Mission to Kathmandu Nepal for facilitationg the South Asian Silk Roads sub-regional meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal foreseen from 23-26 September 2014	Moe Chiba, UNESCO Office in New Dehli	2
6	December 2013	Travel Report Summary for Consultation Mission to Bhutan (Thimphu and Paro), 25 Nov - 1 Dec 2013	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	37
7	November 2013	Travel Report Summary for Consultation Mission to Nepal (Kathmandu), 27 Oct to 3 Nov 2013	Dr. Roland Lin, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	7

Annex II: List of National and International Staff

	Name	Title/Profession	Affiliation
UNESCO	Feng Jing	Chief, Asia and the Pacific Unit	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
	Roland Lin Chih-Hung	Project Officer and Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
	Yangyang Geng Maria Paydar Ian Dull	Interns, Asia and the Pacific Unit	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
	Moe Chiba	Chief, Culture Unit	UNESCO New Delhi
	Nipuna Shrestha	Culture Programme Officer	UNESCO Kathmandu
International Experts	Prof. Tim Williams	Expert	Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), UK
	Bryan Alvey	Expert	Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), UK
Implementation Partners	the staff and officials of the participating South Asian countries have also been instrumental in the implementation of this project.		

Annex III. Ashgabat Agreement (May, 2011)

Second meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, 3-6 May 2011, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

The network of land routes and settlements known as the Silk Roads that stretch from East Asia to the Mediterranean and down into the Indian subcontinent were the medium for the two-way transfer of trade goods for nearly two millennia. They also represent the history and culture of many societies and the time honored social and cultural exchanges between East and West. The idea of preparing a serial nomination for the Silk Roads in Central Asia and China arose out of the 2005 UNESCO World Heritage Periodic Reporting cycle where State Parties identified such a nomination as a follow-up action.

This ambitious and highly complex project may become the largest nomination of linked sites ever presented to the World Heritage Committee. The Silk Roads Serial Nomination project has the capacity to further contemporary international exchange, and its success will be based on mutual cooperation between participating States Parties in the promotion of transnational serial nominations.

Background

A concept paper for the Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in Central Asia and China was adopted in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in 2007, by the Central Asian and Chinese State Parties, and amended in June 2008 during a further Silk Roads consultation workshop in Xi'an, China. In May 2009, at the Silk Roads consultation meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the participating Member States agreed to establish an intergovernmental Coordinating Committee on the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads. In November 2009, the first meeting of the Coordinating Committee took place in Xi'an, China. In this meeting, the Member States appointed the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre (IICC) Xi'an to be the Secretariat. They also decided to create an expert group for documentation, and to request UNESCO and ICOMOS to carry out a Thematic Study of the Silk Roads.

The second meeting of the Coordination Committee took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in May 2011. The Ashgabat meeting was composed of representatives of 12 Member States: Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, of UNESCO, as well as of experts from the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Institute for Central Asian Studies, an UNESCO category II Centre located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, University College, London, United Kingdom, and the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, the University of Leuven, Belgium.

Aim:

The aim of the Ashgabat Meeting was to review progress with the nomination process, to consider new guidance on trans-boundary serial nominations, arising from the International World Heritage expert meeting on serial nominations and properties in Ittingen, Switzerland, in February 2010 that is relevant to the future preparation of the Silk Roads serial nomination, to consolidate the nominations strategy, and to review the draft ICOMOS Thematic Study.

Main Outcomes:

The participants of the meeting agreed to work towards achieving the following during 2011:

1. To accept, in principle, the corridor approach proposed by the Thematic Study, while recognising the need for further technical evaluation and clarification of the nomination process;
2. To establish an overall Silk Roads World Heritage nomination framework, reflecting the new guidance on serial trans-boundary nominations arising from the International World Heritage expert meeting on serial nominations and properties in Ittingen, Switzerland, February, 2010;
3. To agree, between Central Asian countries and China, priority transnational corridors for the first phase of the Silk Roads nomination process; without excluding the possibility of other trans-national corridors being considered for nomination by the Coordination Committee;

4. To re-activate the existing Expert Group of delegates from Central Asia and China, in collaboration with the IICC – Xi'an, Secretariat of the Coordination Committee, through virtual communications;
5. To enhance technical capacity through the designation of National Project Managers by governments, UNESCO National Commissions, or relevant authorities within each participating State Party, for the preparation of the first phase of nominations (both national and transnational);
6. To develop and implement an appropriate management system for the identified Silk Roads nominations (both national and transnational);
7. To request the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to identify facilitators and advisors for the first phase of the nomination process, in close cooperation with Coordinating Committee; to organise technical training on the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention; and to extend the Thematic Study to Korea and Japan;
8. To enhance the exchange of information related to the required documentation for preparation of nomination dossiers. (In this regard participants welcomed the UNESCO/ Japan Funds-in-Trust project "Support for documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and translational Nomination in Central Asia" and the Belgian project "Silk Roads Cultural Heritage Resource information System (CHRIS)");
9. And to encourage State Parties to allocate necessary funds and resources for the timely preparation of nomination dossiers.

The meeting further agreed that since the potential target date for the official submission of the first phase of the Silk Roads transnational nomination dossiers could be 1 February 2013, the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee should take place before September 2012, in order to review and consider the draft nomination dossiers.

Delegates of the Second Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads expressed their gratitude to the:

- Government of Turkmenistan, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, , the National Commission for UNESCO, and other authorities in Turkmenistan, for hosting the meeting, for their warm hospitality, for their support, and for the provision of favourable conditions that allowed the successful organisation of the meeting;
- Ministry of Culture, TV and Radio Broadcasting, Turkmenistan, for the successful organisation of field trips to Kunya Urgench and the Parthian Fortress of Nissa, both World Heritage properties in Turkmenistan;

UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, and the UNESCO offices in Teheran, Almaty, and Tashkent for facilitating the meeting.

Moreover, participants deeply appreciated the financial contributions for the meeting from the UNESCO/ Japan Funds-in-Trust project and the UNESCO/Norway Funds-in-Trust project, as well as from the Government of Turkmenistan.

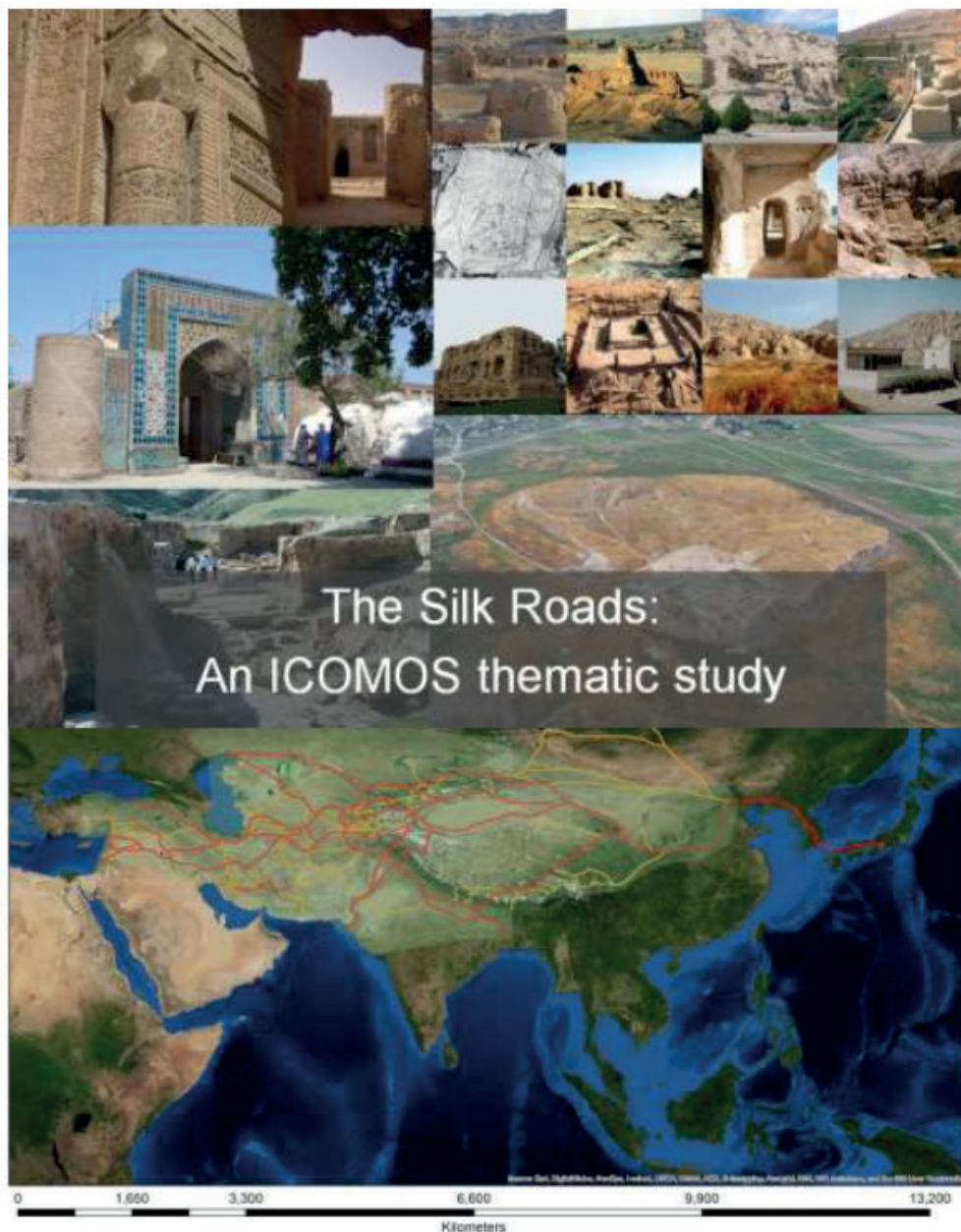


**International Council on
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The Silk Roads: an ICOMOS Thematic Study

Tim Williams

2014



5 Conceptual approach to mapping: nodes, route segments & corridors

5.1 Mapping the routes

The advantage of a computer-based mapping system, over maps reproduced in books and wall charts (section 3.2), is that it is extensively scalable, thus enabling the researcher to zoom into a very detailed exploration of one small segment of a larger route. Thus it would be possible to zoom in to examine a route entering a specific gate within a city, or which side of a river the route ran along. For the purposes of this study, however, it was not possible to drill down to such a local level for tens of thousands of kilometres of routes; to make suggestions regarding every alternative ford or river crossing, every possible deviation and alternative, would be many years work and in most cases unfeasible without local knowledge. This level of refinement must await local research.

There are also some significant conceptual problems with drawing a single route:

- In some areas, especially extensive fertile zones or wide areas of grassland, there were probably a number of alternative routes through the landscape; all still negotiating the passage from node A to B.
- Paths may have changed, both over the centuries and seasonally: for example, fording a river at a different point depending upon whether it was the wet or dry season.

For this study, therefore, we adopted the approach of identifying major **nodes** (large cities) along the Silk Roads; identifying **segments** of routes between these; and broadening these out to represent the **corridors** of ‘movement and impact’ that took place between the nodes (rather than suggesting specific ‘roads’).

5.2 Definitions: nodes, route segments & corridors

5.2.1 Node

Node: a major urban centre and usually a place where a number of routes intersect. These centres are likely to have played an important role in administration, re-supplying, redistribution/marketing, and production; and in reflecting the outcomes of the Silk Roads in terms of architecture, arts, society and beliefs.

There were difficulties in systematically selecting nodes:

- It was not easy to select cities simply on the basis of their **size**; in part, because we have too little data on many of them to be sure of their size at any given moment in their histories; in part, because size relates to other aspects of urbanism: functions; agriculturally productive capacity of the hinterland to support the population; scale of production/access to raw materials; ideological significance (ruler’s home town, major religious connections); etc.
- It is also problematic to select cities solely on the basis of the **number of connecting routes**: some major cities developed because they control a limited number of route options through a region (e.g. Merv with its strategic position in the Murghab delta

controlling routes from the Oxus to the northern Iranian plain – there were few other routes and none as direct).

These issues with the selection of nodes leave us with a number of choices regarding how to segment routes; broadly the three models are:

- Selecting long segments, between nodes at major ('mega') cities. Selecting major urban centres for the nodes has the advantage that it is likely that most of these have already at least been identified and in many cases there has been some archaeological work in developing their chronologies;
- Splitting routes into numerous segments between each reasonably large town;
- A combination of using urban size and route connectivity: focusing on substantial urban centres that also act as inter-connections between routes.

See Figure 9 for an example of the approaches.

EXAMPLE: the route from Loulan to Khotan around the southern margins of the Taklamakan Desert, a distance of just short of 1,000 km.

In *model (i)* this might be considered to be a single corridor between two very major cities.

In *model (ii)* Charklick to Khotan segment could be broken down, at Waxxari, Charchan, Endere and Niya (so a total of 7 segments between Loulan and Khotan). The problem with *model (ii)* is that we know very little about these smaller towns (indeed, in some cases, even their location is disputed), and if we adopted this approach, we would end up with many hundreds of segments along the Silk Roads.

In *model (iii)* we would have three segments¹⁸: Loulan to Miran (c 170 km); Miran to Charklick (c 70 km); and Charklick to Khotan (c 740 km): each a substantial settlement, and each acting as intersections of major route junctions.



Figure 9. Selecting nodes and segments. The principal sites between Khotan (left) and Lop Nor/Loulan (right). The green lines are the segments identified in the OWTRAD dataset, and simply link nodes with straight lines. In red, a more complex picture, with more settlements and a route digitised to reflect local topography (rivers, oases, etc.) (from the Historical Atlas of Eurasia).

¹⁸ Which is effectively what OWTRAD adopted, based on Whitfield's work (1999).

Model (i) might seem to offer the best approach at present – given the tremendous scale of the project, the fact that the major nodes are more likely to have been identified, located and (at least partially) documented - combined with the concept of the junction of major routes. Of course, segments can be grouped together, or split, in terms of selecting corridors for inscription (see 7.2.3).

5.2.2 Segment

Route segment: the route between two major nodes, taking into account known topographic and cultural features (see 5.3 below on how these were digitised). For example, in Figure 9, the red route reflects the complexity of the route utilising the rivers and oases of the region. The routes defined are not trying to reflect every path and track, but rather provide insight into major movements of people and goods.

5.2.3 Corridor

Corridor: a uniform buffer applied to all the digitised route segments. This is intended to cope with the potential variability of specific paths and roads between the nodes, and to capture sites/landscapes along the segments: the latter reflecting the impact of the route in terms of the development of way-stations, forts, bridges, smaller towns, religious sites, etc. We tested a variety of buffer sizes against the known sites recorded in the GIS and a buffer of 30km on either side of the route segment (i.e. a 60km wide corridor) worked most effectively in capturing most key elements¹⁹.

The process of buffering the route segments also highlighted places where groups of sites lay outside any designated corridor, suggesting the presence of subsidiary routes that had not been identified from other sources.

5.2.4 Adapting the corridor buffer

What will be needed in the future is the local refinement of the generic 30km buffer, replacing it with a more considered boundary polygon encompassing the specifics of the individual segment (Figure 10). This will be particularly relevant if we use a selection of corridors to drive forward the nomination strategy (section 7.2).

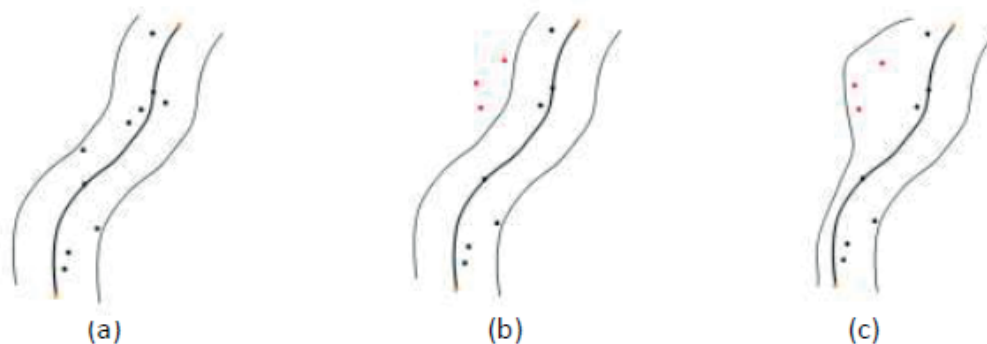


Figure 10. Adjusting the boundary of specific corridors. In (a) all the principal sites lie within a corridor defined by a generic buffer 30 km to either side of the main segment defined between two nodes (yellow). In (b) some sites (in red) lie outside the corridor. In (c) the buffer is redrawn to take into account the local topography/ecology – which constricts the landscape available in some places, and broadens it out in others.

¹⁹ It is a simple operation in the GIS, using ArcMap, to change the size of the buffer to model alternative patterns. A buffer of 2km was used by Del & Tavernari (2009) when exploring caravanserai routes, but the purpose here is to capture a more complex set of movements and impacts through the landscape.

5.2.5 Conclusions

Obviously this is a relatively coarse approach: it cannot take into account all of the subtleties of local topography, environment or vegetation, and undoubtedly local knowledge and research will add to, and deepen, this picture. However, this was a viable approach when dealing with in excess of 50,000 km of routes. We would argue that it creates a reasonably robust tool, in terms of identifying key elements of the overall Silk Roads and patterning their diversity (section 6.1).

5.3 Digitising routes

We digitised the routes at an approximate scale of 1:25,000.

In drawing the routes we took account of obvious topographic features (mountain passes, well-known fords and river crossings, known bridging points, etc.), along with known way-stations, forts, and smaller towns. Major shrine complexes were also taken into account, although it is also clear that these were sometimes located off the main routes of movement, perhaps taking advantage of the siting (on a hill or mountainside overlooking such routes), or reflecting the specific desire for remote locations.

6 Analysis

The aim of this study is to provide an analysis of sites along the Silk Roads that could be used by States Parties participating in the *Silk Roads Serial Nomination project* as a basis for comparative analyses when nominating series of sites. This may take two forms:

- Profile the distribution and distinctiveness of Silk Roads sites in order to understand how sites are manifestations of the shifting systems of power and patronage that prevailed over time along the Silk Roads, in relation to the organisation of flourishing trade and the protection of trade routes.
- Define the distribution of Silk Roads sites, in order to understand:
 - What sites are common to the whole extent of the Roads
 - What sites are specific to the whole Silk Roads or to certain parts of the Roads
 - What sites are unique or exceptional
 - Which sites are plentiful and how their form varies in time and space
 - What sites are persistent over time
 - What sites reflect specific period of history, power systems or cultural traditions.

6.1 Routes & corridors

As discussed (section 2.4) the scale of the routes across the vast area of the Silk Roads as defined in this study, has led to more than 75,000 km of routes being plotted. The scale of resolution on many of these is necessarily broad-brush (section 5.3), and undoubtedly these can and will be augmented in the future²⁰.

In many cases there has been insufficient field research to convincingly argue the detailed chronology of specific segments or routes. We know that different routes rise to prominence at different times - for example, the shifting emphasis on the routes around the Taklamakan Desert²¹ – but often without a great deal of precision about the fluctuations. The Tea Horse road is just one example of the complexity of route development and chronology (see panel below).

²⁰ The corridors through Iraq and Syria, for example, need elaboration both in terms of character and delineation, as and when the State Parties are able to engage with the Silk Roads process. Currently the routes have been defined by reviewing existing literature (e.g. Dussaud 1927) or maps (e.g. a map of the Antiquities of Iraq, dated 1967, prepared by the Directorate General of Antiquities). These give a reasonable overview of the major settlements and monumental archaeology, but do not include way stations and smaller settlements/structures.

²¹ Especially between the northern *Tianshan bei lu* route and the southern *Nan Shan Bei Lu* route (Baumer 2003; Baumer 2008; Wood 2002).

The Tea-Horse Road

The Tea-Horse Road (sometimes called Southern Silk Road), comprised a network of horse, mule and human caravan paths through the mountains from Yunnan Province in southwest China to South Asia. These are argued as having developed, at least in part, around tribute rather than trade goods, but the routes encompassed trade, migration and strategic military activity. “Salts, medicines, silver, pelts, jewels and all manner of other goods would in time find their way along the Tea Horse Road making it what some locals called a ‘conductor of economies’” (Fuchs 2008, 64).

The routes are often thought to have started in the early T’ang Dynasty (618-907 CE) and by the 10th century CE a complex networks of routes linked Yunnan to India, Nepal, Tibet and central China (via Sichuan Province) (Rapoport 2008). However, this should not mask the fact that routes between southwest China and South Asia had operated over considerable periods of time: in the 2nd century BCE Zhang Qian observed bamboo canes and cloth from southwest China in a market of Balkh (Afghanistan), and was informed that merchants had bought them from India, indicating trade routes from southwest China to India, and then on to Central Asia, were operating at that time (Gosch & Stearns 2008).

As a result, it is not useful, in the context of either this study or the nomination process, to try to substantially refine the chronology of each route at this time. Rather the nomination process is better focused on reflecting the main routes, over the agreed timescale (the 3rd century BCE to the 16th century CE), and thus attempting to reflect the scale and diversity of the routes and their internal chronologies. The routes into South Asia, including those across the Tibetan plateau (Tong 2013), should be a priority for inclusion, to reflect this complex pattern.

6.2 WHS and TL distribution

6.2.1 Existing WHS

A total of 35 major sites along the Silk Roads have already been successfully nominated as WHS (Table 2). All of these sites justified inscription in their own right, but many explicitly drew upon their relationship to the Silk Roads (e.g. Samarkand or Palmyra), or were very closely associated with the outcomes of the routes (e.g. Mogao Caves, Dunhuang).

Country	UNESCO Name	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
Afghanistan	Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley	X	X	X	X		X
Afghanistan	The Minaret of Jam		X	X	X		
China	Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa	X			X		X
China	Mogao Caves (Dunhuang)	X	X	X	X	X	X
China	Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System		X		X		X
Iran	Bam and its Cultural Landscape		X	X	X	X	
Iran	Bistun		X	X			
Iran	Dome of Soltaniyeh		X	X	X		
Iran	Meidan Emam, Esfahan	X				X	X
Iran	Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System	X	X			X	

Iran	Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex		X	X	X			
Iran	Takht-e Soleyma	X	X	X	X		X	
Iran	The Armenian monasteries of Iran		X	X			X	
Iraq	Hatra		X	X	X		X	
Iraq	Samarra Archaeological City		X	X	X			
Kazakhstan	Ahmed Jasawi architectural complex and archaeological site of the medieval town of Yasi-Turkestan			X	X	X	X	
Lebanon	Anjar			X	X			
Lebanon	Baalbeck	X			X			
Lebanon	Tyre			X			X	
Nepal	Kathmandu			X	X		X	
Pakistan	Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol				X			
Pakistan	Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta			X				
Pakistan	Taxila			X			X	
Syria	Ancient City of Aleppo			X	X			
Syria	Ancient City of Bosra	X		X			X	
Syria	Ancient City of Damascus	X	X	X	X		X	
Syria	Site of Palmyra	X	X		X			
Turkey	Great Mosque and Hospital of Divriği	X			X			
Turkmenistan	Archaeological Park of Ancient Merv		X	X				
Turkmenistan	Kunya Urgench		X	X				
Turkmenistan	Parthian Fortresses of Nisa		X	X				
Uzbekistan	Historic Centre of Bukhara		X		X		X	
Uzbekistan	Historic Centre of Shakhrisyab			X	X			
Uzbekistan	Khiva (Itchan Kala)			X	X	X		
Uzbekistan	Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures	X	X		X			
Totals			12	20	25	24	6	15

Table 2. Current World Heritage Sites within the study area, with some connection to the Silk Roads: showing criteria for inscription.

6.2.2 Tentative list sites

At present there are 221 relevant sites on tentative lists across the study area (Annex 2). These reflect a broad range of site types and landscapes, but with a strong emphasis on the ‘Outcomes’ of the Silk Roads (see below, section 6.3).

Geographically the sites are widely spread, although there are obvious clusters and gaps (Figure 11).

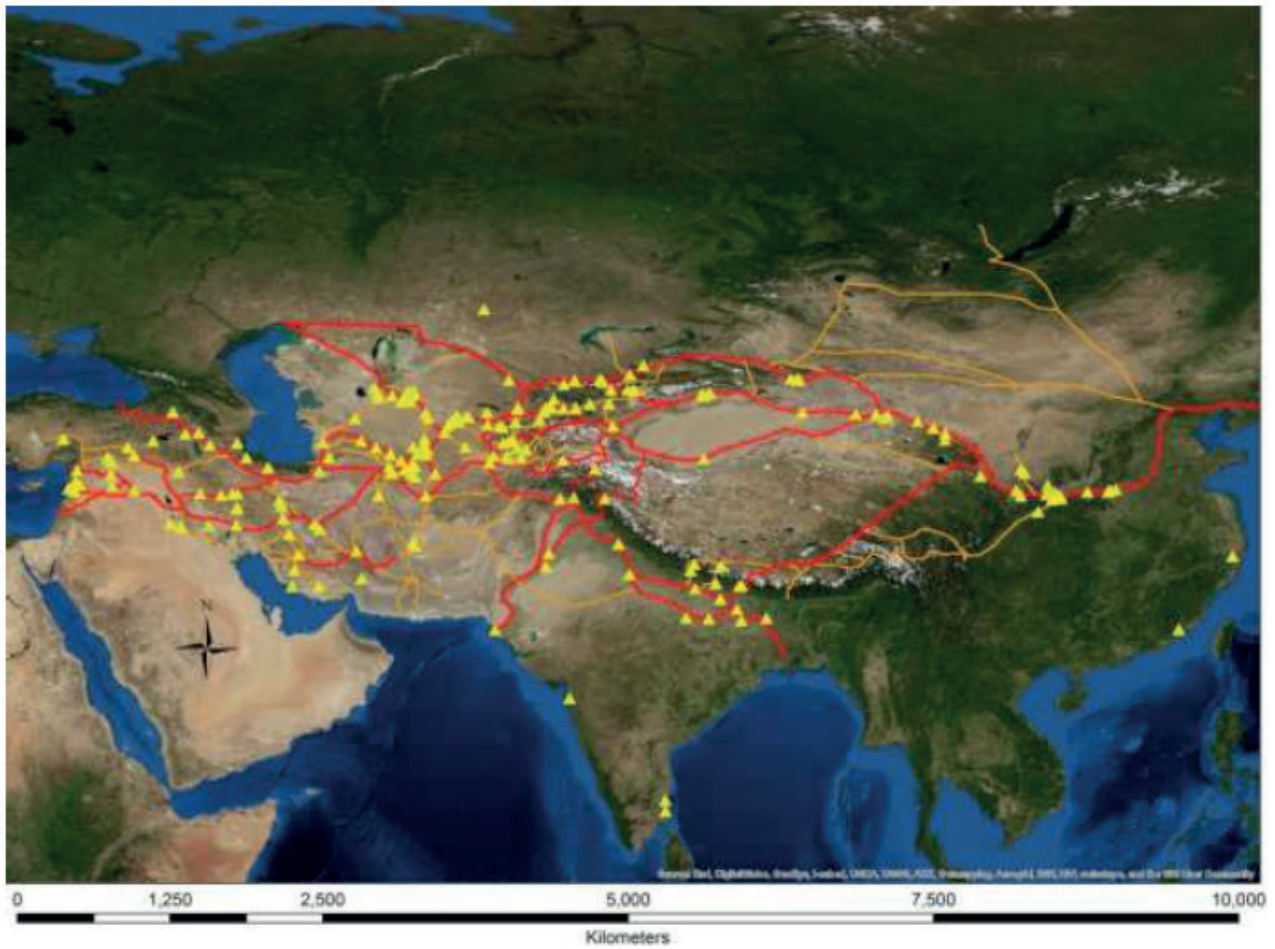


Figure 11. Distribution of current tentative list sites (yellow triangles) across the study area.

1 Draft Concept Statement for the Silk Roads

(From: 5th UNESCO SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE SERIAL WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION OF THE SILK ROADS, 18 – 24 May 2009, Almaty, Kazakhstan: final report: drafted as a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) before the idea of a series of corridors was suggested. It is here presented as an over-arching Concept for a series of serial nominations that will ultimately reflect the scope and extent of the Silk roads).

The Silk Roads are routes of integration, exchange and dialogue between East and West that have contributed greatly to the common prosperity of humankind for almost 2 millennia. The whole of the route is more than the sum of its constituent parts.

Flourishing in particular between the 2nd century BC and end of the 16th century AD, this network of routes, started initially from Chang'an (present-day Xi'an) and ultimately stretching from East Asia to the Mediterranean in the west, and down into the Indian subcontinent, facilitated and generated a two-way intercontinental trade in a dazzling array of trading goods. Of these, Chinese silk was among the most valuable, but it included materials such as precious metals and stones, ceramics, perfumes, ornamental woods, and spices in return for cotton and wool textiles, glass, wine, amber, carpets and the celebrated horses. This trade connected various civilizations, persisted over centuries and was sustained by a system of caravanserais, commercial settlements, trade cities and forts along its entire length of more than 10,000 km, which makes it arguably the longest cultural route in the history of humanity.

But much more than trading goods was transported over the network of Silk Roads. Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and Nestorian, Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Manichaeism spread over the Silk Roads, Scientific and technological developments were also diffused by these routes, for example from China, paper, printing, gunpowder, cast iron, the crossbow, the magnetic compass, and porcelain, whilst engineering developments (particularly bridge building), the cultivation and working of cotton, tapestry weaving, calendrical sciences, vine cultivation, as well as certain glazing and metal working techniques spread from Central Asia, Middle East, Mediterranean and the west. There was also a substantial two-way exchange of medical knowledge and medicines, as well as of what are now seen as universal fruit and other food crops. As such, the Silk Roads generated outstanding manifestations of global significance in the realms of economy, society, culture and the environment. The types of monuments, sites and cultural landscapes found along the Silk Roads can be categorized under:

- Infrastructure (facilitating trade and transportation);
- Production (of trading goods); and
- Outcomes (such as cities, art, knowledge as a result of contact and exchange).

The property includes outstanding examples of types of heritage under these categories.

Attributes include:

- Topographical and natural features
- Urban patterns and architectural designs
- Socio-economic development

- Political events
- Religious and spiritual values
- Achievements in science and technology
- Achievements in the arts (sculpture, painting, carving, etc.)
- Intangible heritage

Under Category 1 Infrastructure, the sites among others, comprises caravanserais and inns; military posts, garrison stations and fortifications; bridges; irrigation systems; natural and cultural landmarks.

Under Category 2 Production the sites reflect mining, metal working, manufacturing and handicrafts, and other industrial and production sites.

Under Category 3 Outcomes the sites include trade cities, urban centres and settlements; religious, spiritual and ceremonial sites (including shrines, caves, tombs, sites of pilgrimage); and places of associations with political events, transfer of ideas, language, music, dance, poetry, etc.

3 Selected corridors

A gazetteer of corridors of all the corridors identified in the study has been compiled, drawing upon the information in the database (Annex 4.2) and GIS system (Annex 4.3). The gazetteer will be distributed in a digital format (Williams forthcoming a & b).

3.1 Introduction

A few points of note:

- The corridors have been numbered in no particular order and numbering does not reflect importance.
- The length of the corridor has no relationship to their potential significance, but rather reflects their geo-political and geographic context (e.g. routes along desert margins, along river valleys, or mountain piedmont).
- Nominations are likely to be of a sub-set of corridor, reflecting the most important sites and landscapes that represent the OUV of the nomination.
- The principle routes have been defined in **segments** linking major **nodes** (cities). Initially a buffer of 30km either side of the main route (i.e. a 60km wide **corridor**) has been defined to capture sites/landscapes along the segments.

3.2 Selected corridors

Listed below are some of the potentially significant corridors for consideration in the nomination strategy. The list is not meant to be exclusive.

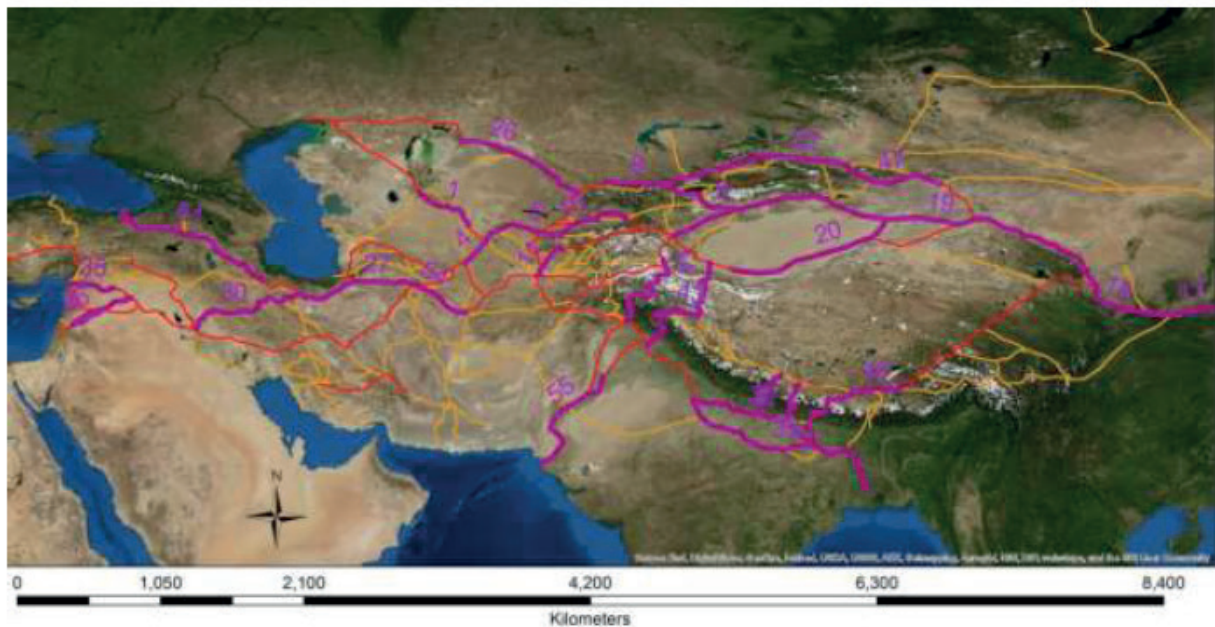


Figure 19. Some selected corridors (or parts of corridors) highlighted in purple (details in next figures).

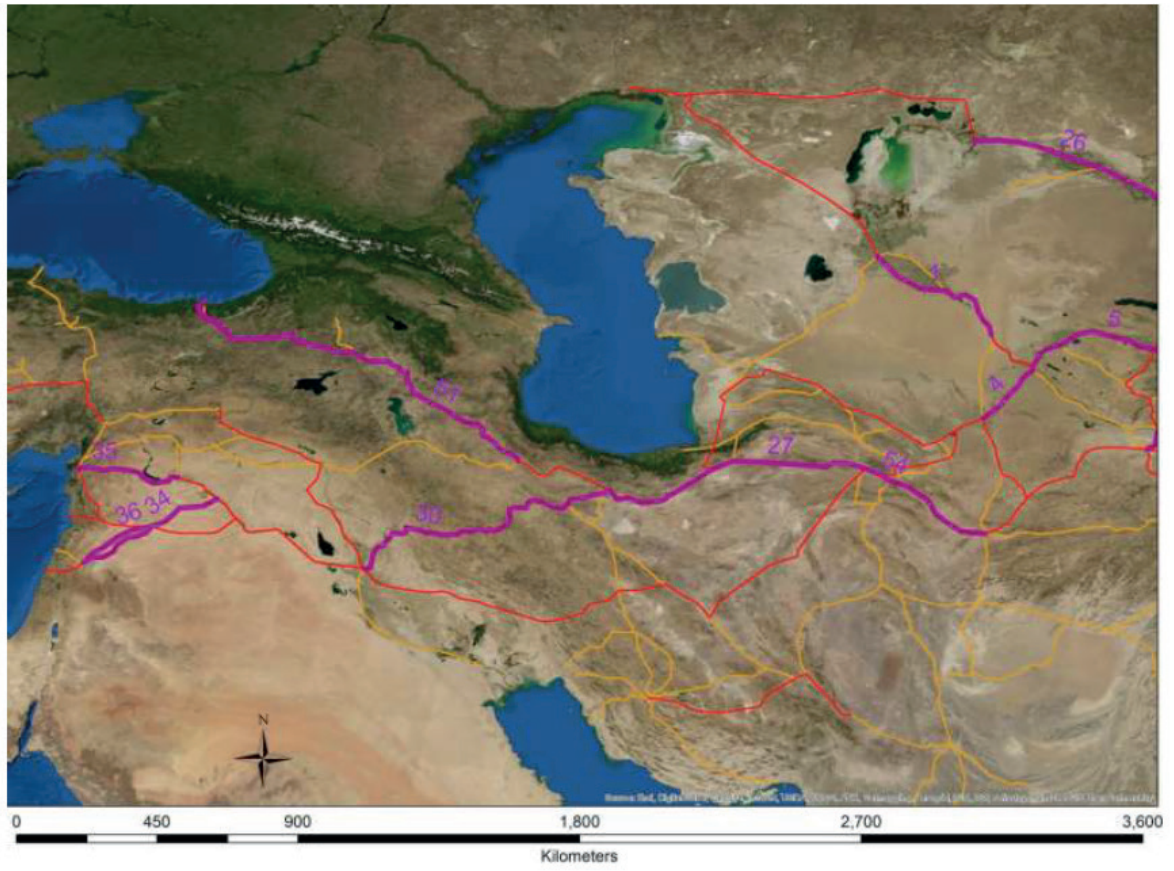
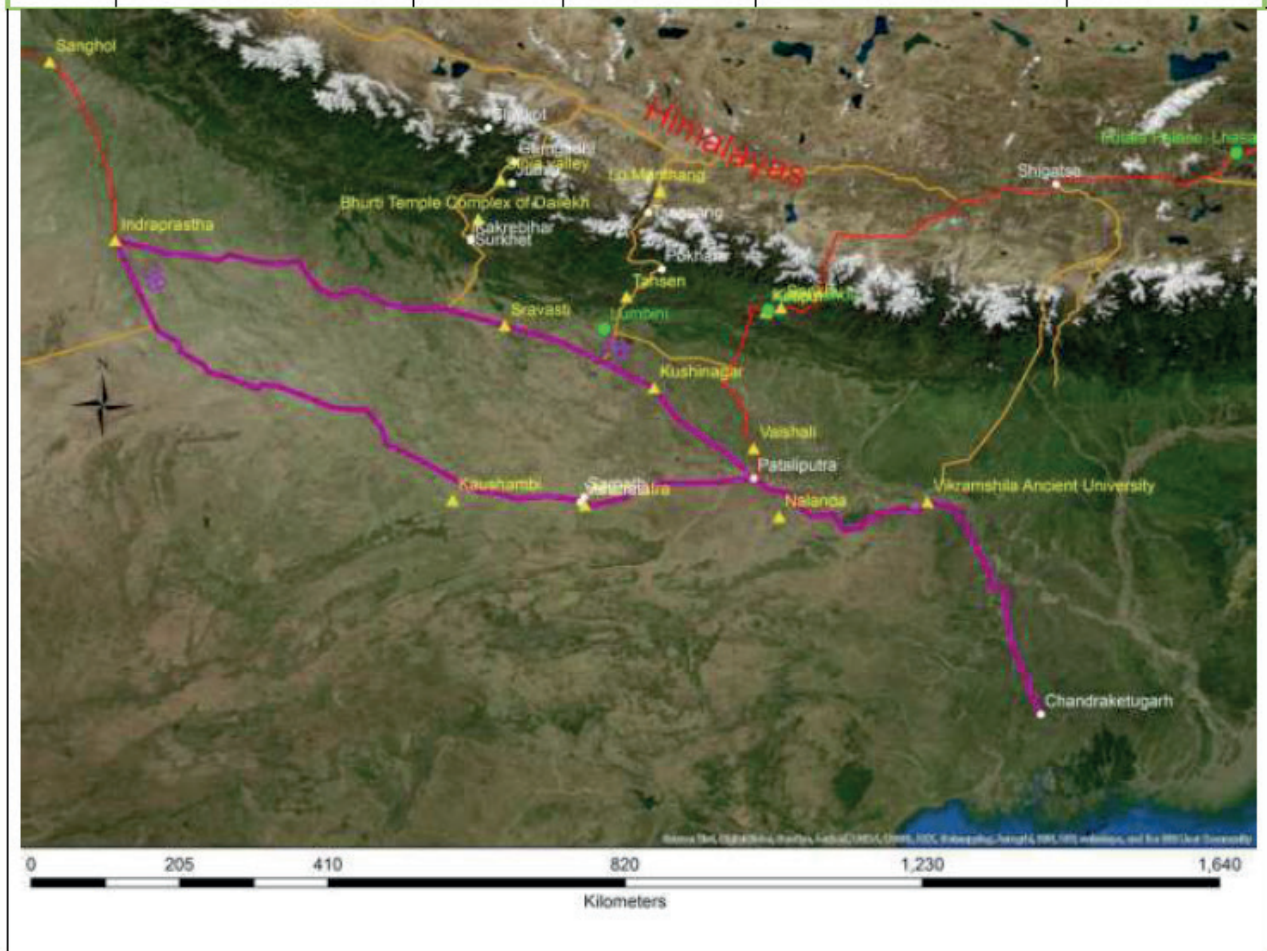


Figure 20. Sample corridors in the west.

No.	Corridor	Distance (km)	Reason (1) – eco-geographic	Reason (2) - cultural	State Parties
38 & 39	<p>The Silk Roads: down the Ganges - Indraprastha to Chandraketugarh</p> <p><i>There is a good case for a much wider corridor to encompass 38 & 39, and potential a variety of other routes/sites through this broad fertile zone.</i></p> <p><i>Could also be expanded to enable trans-boundary working with Bangladesh.</i></p>	1,392	<p>Fertile river system with wide agriculturally productive zone. Important for connections to northern mountain routes and eastward to the sea.</p>	<p>Issues of water management, and the role in this of monastic communities. Major developments in urbanism, sites of learning and religious development/architecture. Major power base for a variety of empire systems.</p>	India



Annex V: Action Plan of the First South Asian Priority Transnational Heritage Corridor(s) (September 2014)

Sub-regional Workshop on the Nomination Strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads, Kathmandu, Nepal, 23-24 September 2014

State-parties	Expected results of the work	Timeframe	Potential Funding
Bhutan, China, India and Nepal	Final Feedback on the Draft Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads and the Draft Action Plan	End October 2014	
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	Consideration, besides Nomination Strategy, if Concept Paper for the identified South Asian priority transnational Silk Roads heritage corridor(s) needed? Agree upon the first South Asian priority transnational Silk Roads heritage corridor(s)	December 2014 May 2015	UNESCO Korean FIT Project + India, China (?) + ...
Silk Roads Coordinating Committee Members : currently 12 countries including China, India and Nepal Bhutan (Observer); Pakistan (?); Bangladesh (?); Myanmar (?)+	Fourth meeting of the Silk Roads Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee Presentation and report to the Coordination Committee on the progress of South Asian Silk Roads works conducted by the State Parties	May 2015 (potential timing)	UNESCO Korean FIT Project + UNESCO Japan FIT Project + Hosting & participating country
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (Observer) +	Potential establishment of South Asian Silk Roads Steering Committee and Working Group for the first South Asian priority transnational Silk Roads heritage corridor(s)	July 2015	Country's own cost, UNESCO (?)
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (Observer) +	1 st meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group (identification of the content of the definition for the inscription; updating the World Heritage Tentative List of Silk Roads by the State Parties) Preparation of the Memorandum on preparation of documentation of the nomination	August/ September 2015	to be decided

China, India and Nepal Bhutan (Observer) +	<p>2nd meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group</p> <p>Memorandum for preparation of serial and transnational nomination of South Asian Silk Roads sites for the UNESCO World Heritage list</p> <p>Within the Steering Committee/ Working Group, consideration to create body for the monitoring, conservation and management of nominated Silk Roads sites</p> <p>Harmonization of the preparation process of the South Asian Silk Roads corridor nomination (including harmonisation of the South Asian Silk Roads Tentative Lists)</p> <p>First meeting of the Steering Committee</p>	December 2015	Countries + UNESCO (?)
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	Official Submission of updated Silk Roads World Heritage Tentative Lists in the participating State Parties	As early as possible, at latest by 1 February 2017	to be decided
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (Observer) +	<p>3rd meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group - Harmonization of the preparation process of the South Asian Silk Roads corridor nomination (approval of the content of the dossier)</p> <p>Report on the progress of South Asian Silk Roads works conducted by the State Parties and (including OUV, state, authenticity, integrity, comparative analyses) identification and approval of boundaries and buffer zones, as well as transboundary management and protection mechanisms</p>	December 2016	to be decided
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	Creation of the shared archive and data documentation centre of South Asian Silk Roads Heritage Corridor(s), eventually in the future category II centre in New Delhi	As early as possible	to be defined
China, India and Nepal Bhutan +	<p>Checking and updating, if necessary, amendment of existing legislations</p> <p>Preparation or finalization and dissemination of conservation norms and holistic management plans of the South Asian Silk Roads sites within the context of each State Party</p>	As early as possible, at latest by December 2017	to be decided
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	Sharing of the preliminary full text of the nomination dossier	June 2017	to be decided

China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	4 th meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group (adoption of the draft dossier)	July 2017	to be decided
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	Submission of the South Asian Silk Roads draft nomination dossier to World Heritage Centre for the preliminary review	September 2017	to be decided
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	5 th meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group (adoption of the Final dossier) Second meeting of the Steering Committee	December 2017 – January 2018	to be decided
China, India and Nepal Bhutan (?) +	Submission of the final dossiers to World Heritage Centre	Mid of January 2018	to be decided

South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy



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Prepared within the framework of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project “Support for the preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia”, and with the support of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Offices in Kathmandu and in New Delhi

Version 3

December 2014

1 Introduction

This paper reviews existing data and suggests possible approaches for the South Asian region to the serial trans-boundary Silk Roads World Heritage nomination process. A first draft of this paper was prepared in advance of the sub-regional meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal, 23-24 September 2014, attended by the representatives and experts from the four South Asian countries of Bhutan, China, India and Nepal, together with UNESCO representatives and UNESCO international experts. This version has been updated based on the discussions held at that meeting.

The State parties, especially China, India and Nepal, expressed an in principle interest in collaborating. However, the discussion did not allow them to reach consensus on exact routes to work on. State parties nonetheless agreed on an Action Plan¹ and timeframe, the broad stages being:

- May 2015 Agree upon the first South Asian priority transnational Silk Roads heritage corridor(s); Fourth meeting of the Silk Roads Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee;
- August/Sept 2015 1st meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group (identification of the content of the definition for the inscription; updating the World Heritage Tentative List of Silk Roads by the State Parties);
- December 2015 2nd meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group - Memorandum for preparation of serial and transnational nomination of South Asian Silk Roads sites for the UNESCO World Heritage list;
- December 2016 3rd meeting of the South Asian Silk Roads Working Group – Harmonization of the preparation process of the South Asian Silk Roads corridor nomination (approval of the content of the dossier);
- By 1 February 2017 Official Submission of updated Silk Roads World Heritage Tentative Lists in the participating State Parties;
- September 2017 Submission of the South Asian Silk Roads draft nomination dossier to World Heritage Centre for the preliminary review;
- January 2018 Submission of the final dossiers to World Heritage Centre.

For a background to the Silk Roads strategy, see the *Silk Roads: an ICOMOS thematic study* (Williams 2014); this is also available digitally². This established the approach of using ‘corridors of movement’ to conceptualise the complexity of Silk Roads archaeology and heritage, and to create a practical modular framework for the selection of corridors to form trans-boundary nomination projects. It also identified a number of likely corridors for consideration which extended into the South Asia region (Figure 1), although it did not comprehensively cover it.

¹ Kathmandu *Action Plan of the first South Asian priority transnational heritage corridor(s)* agreed at Sub-regional Workshop on the Nomination Strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads, Kathmandu, Nepal, 23-24 September 2014

² http://www.icomos.org/images/mediatheque/ICOMOS_WHThematicStudy_SilkRoads_final_lv_201406.pdf and from UCL discovery at <http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1356660/>

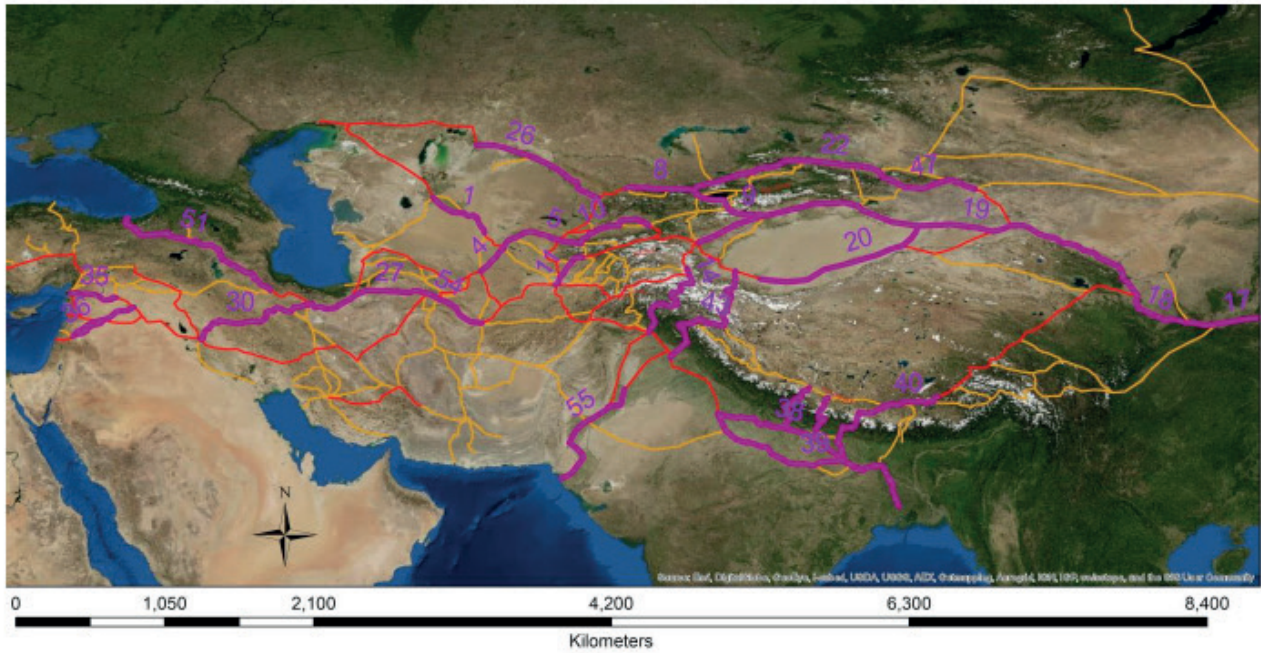


Figure 1. The corridors identified in the ICOMOS Thematic Study (Williams 2014).

The Thematic Study also includes the *Concept Statement for the Silk Roads*, which sets out the broader vision of the project and establishes its chronological framework and key attributes.

2 South Asian nomination strategy: general issues

2.1 Introduction

A number of vitally important trans-Himalayan routes connected western China (Yunan, Sichuan and Xingjian) and Central Asia, via the Tibetan plateau, to the Indian subcontinent (Figure 2). These routes were fundamental to the development of the region (Fisher 1992; Rizvi 2000; Tong 2013). These broadly north-south routes connected with largely east-west routes, such as those along the southern Taklamakan Desert (Corridor 20³), and those along the Gangetic Plain (Corridors 38 & 39).

³ All Corridors numbers refer to the numbers allocated in the Silk Roads Thematic Study.



Figure 2. The South Asian region and the principle route identified in the original Silk Roads Thematic Study.

The trade goods passing along these various routes comprised tea, salt, spices, cashmere wool, silk, metals and many other goods. As with the other parts of the Silk Roads, silk was only one component, sometimes a small one, of the wide variety of trade goods moved (Williams 2014, 6-11).

These different corridors saw very different scales of traffic, and had different chronologies of use. However, all were important in developing local cultures and polities, and were instrumental in the movement of ideas, goods and peoples. Each was vital in the development of specific polities and/or empires.

2.2 Selection of corridors

There are a number of distinct routes/corridors crossing the region. In discussion at the Kathmandu meeting all of these are considered to be significant, reflecting different empire systems, chronologies and patterns of movements and impacts. The selection of corridors will need to reflect the complexity of the responses to:

- i) The environmental and geographic nature of the area: with high plateaus, mountain passes, high mountain valleys, wide fertile river deltas, etc.
- ii) The empire system, polities and religions which developed through the interaction with, and control of, the Silk Roads.

2.3 Tentative lists

All the countries involved in the South Asian Silk Roads project will need to consider updating their tentative list submissions to reflect the corridors selected. India is the only country with a current

Silk Roads tentative list⁴; China did have a Silk Roads tentative list⁵, but this did not encompass any of the sites/landscapes of the Southern Taklamakan, Sichuan/Yunan, or the Tibetan plateau.

There will need to be a process of harmonizing the tentative lists (see section 7.2.6 in Williams 2014) to ensure that the different State Parties have collectively included sufficient elements that underpin the Outstanding Universal Value of the nomination (see section 2.5 below).

2.4 National inventories and continuing research

The timetable for the preparation of nominations will need to reflect the scale of preparation and knowledge available to each State Party. National inventories, for example, exist at very different levels across the State Parties.

- 1) **China** has detailed inventories, but the extent to which these reflect the complexities of the Silk Roads corridors in the region will need to be explored. China has already identified that more field research and capacity building along the Tibetan Plateau may be necessary.
- 2) **India** has detailed inventories, but the selection of sites, particularly smaller sites/way-stations, etc., may require further development.
- 3) Work on some of the routes through **Nepal**, especially in the western area, might need further work to identify specific sites and landscapes.
- 4) **Bhutan** is only just embarking upon a National Inventory and archaeological work on pre-17th century heritage is still at an early stage of development. As a result, they are some way from being in a position to put forward specific sites and landscapes for a Silk Roads nomination. However, the key routes/corridors are already evident.

2.5 Site selection within corridors

The selection of specific sites and landscapes within the corridors is always challenging. It is vital that these reflect the attributes and criteria that have been chosen for the nomination project, and that they reflect the wider criteria developed for the Silk Roads project (see section 7.2.4 in Williams 2014). In this context, it will be vital to capture the complexity of the socio-cultural responses to the Silk Roads through:

- The infrastructure of the corridors: way-stations, pillar stones, forts, mountain passes, bridges, small market towns, ports, etc.
- The outcomes: religious monuments and landscapes, large cities, manufacturing centres, etc.

2.6 Linking with existing World Heritage Sites

As with the existing Silk Roads project, a number of existing World Heritage Sites will fall within the remit of the Silk Roads initiative. These sites, such as those in the Kathmandu Valley, can appear as part of their corridor nomination, without compromising their existing World Heritage status.

2.7 Protection and Management

Overall, the Silk Roads project established an *Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee* in 2009.

⁴ Silk Road Sites in India (submitted 20/01/2010): <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5492/>

⁵ The Silk Roads tentative list covered the now successful serial trans-boundary nomination of the *Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor* (with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan): <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442>

This steering committee is comprised of representatives of all States Parties involved in the nominations of Silk Roads corridors. The ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (IICC-X)⁶ acts as the Secretariat for the Committee. The Committee oversees the development of trans-national serial nominations, and aims to provide guidelines on conservation principles, methods, and management.

The successful nomination of the *Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor* provides a potential model for trans-national working and management infrastructure for the South Asian Silk Roads project⁷. A formal agreement for the coordinated management of the sites in the corridor was signed by the three States Parties. This set out management mechanisms, and identified the principles and rules of conservation management. These do not substitute for the management of the specific sites and landscapes selected by the responsible State Party, but rather provide a broader overview of management strategies and principles, shared by the partners. This also provides a framework for periodic reporting. The agreement also established suggestions for exchange and collaboration on conservation, interpretation, presentation and publicity. The Steering Committee for the corridor consists of Vice Ministers. There is also a Working Group, consisting of two experts and one government official from each State Party. Regular meetings are held between the three States Parties. Collaboration is being supported by the development of an on-line information platform at the IICC-X.

A similar model might be envisaged for the South Asian partners for any corridor nominations.

⁶ <http://www.iicc.org.cn/Channel.aspx?ChId=2>

⁷ See the summary of Protection and Management requirements at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442>

3 Nomination strategy

General discussion at the Kathmandu meeting suggested developing a trans-national nomination project based on the best understood corridors, which could go ahead relatively quickly, with other corridors being taken forward as research and resources permit.

The suggested approach includes the following projects.

3.1 Routes from the Tibetan Plateau to the Gangetic Plain via Nepal

Develop a Tibetan plateau, Nepal and lower Gangetic Plain project, to include China, Nepal and India: selecting the best understood/prepared central Himalayan corridors for an initial nomination project (Figure 3). Within China it is likely that additional research in the southern Tibetan region may be needed for this project. Within Nepal, the State Party expressed a strong preference for the corridor that stretches North-South between Lo Mantang/Mustang and Lumbini (Corridor 41)⁸. The eastern route, through the Kathmandu Valley (Corridor 40) would also be important for establishing the major links between Tibet and India. All of these routes extend southward within India and would encompass the lower Gangetic Plain (Corridors 38 & 39) and the port sites to the south-east (Figure 4).

It is possible that the western China-Nepal-India route (Corridor 42) might be added as an extension to this nomination, when the research platform in Tibet and Nepal was strong enough to do so.

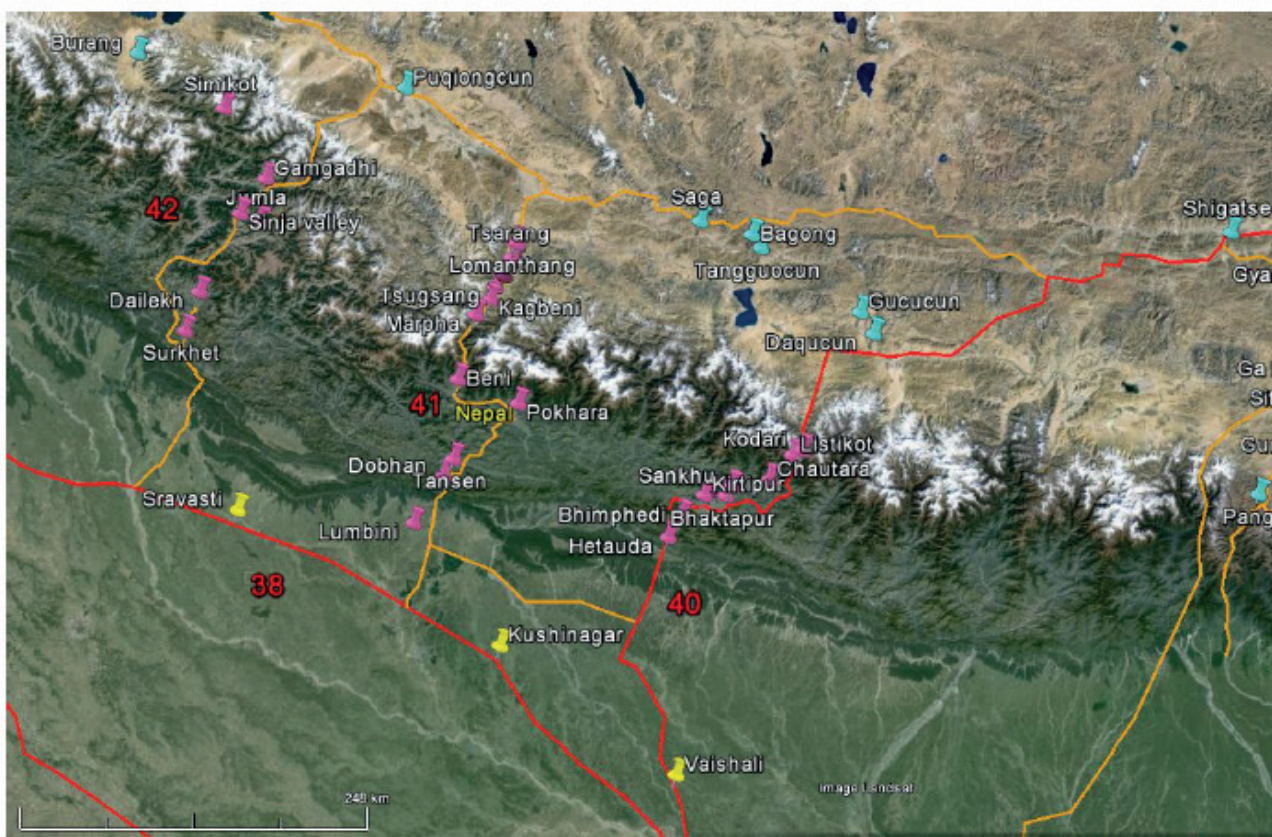


Figure 3. Sites along the Tibetan Plateau and the three corridors through Nepal: the easternmost Kathmandu Valley (Corridor 40), the central (mid-western Nepal) route through Lo Manthang and Lumbini (Corridor 41) and the westernmost route including Jumla and Surkhet (Corridor 42).

⁸ However, the link between Lo-Mantang/Mustang and China requires investigation.

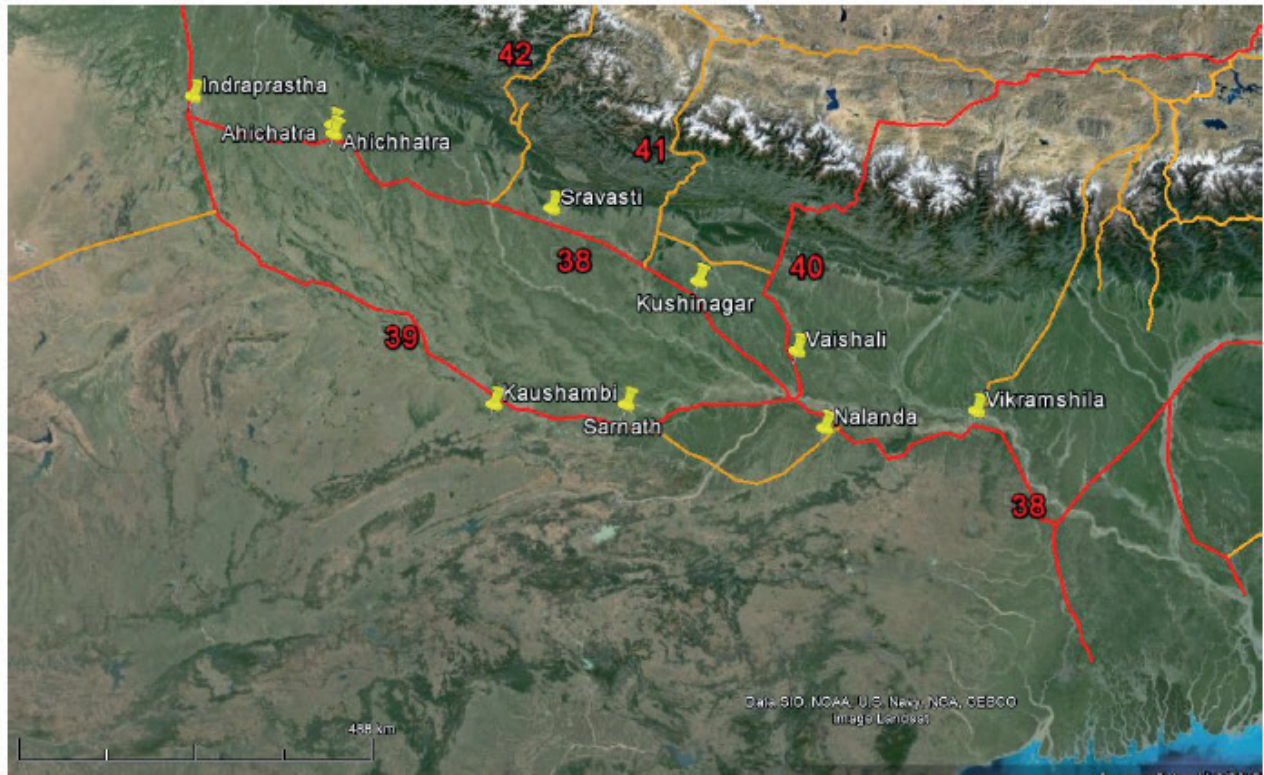


Figure 4. The lower Gangetic Plain.

3.2 Southern Taklamakan to north-west India (and beyond)

Develop a separate nomination project to encompass the China-India corridors (Figure 5) from the Southern Taklamakan (e.g. Yarkand/Khotan - Corridor 20) through western Tibet and Northwest India (e.g. via Leh and Srinagar, to Gujranwala - Corridor 43). This might also include Pakistan, to encompass the other major Karakoram route (via the Khunjerab and Wakhir Passes) from Tashkurgan to Taxila (Corridor 14), and to extend the corridor down the Indus Valley to the ocean (Corridors 48 & 55).

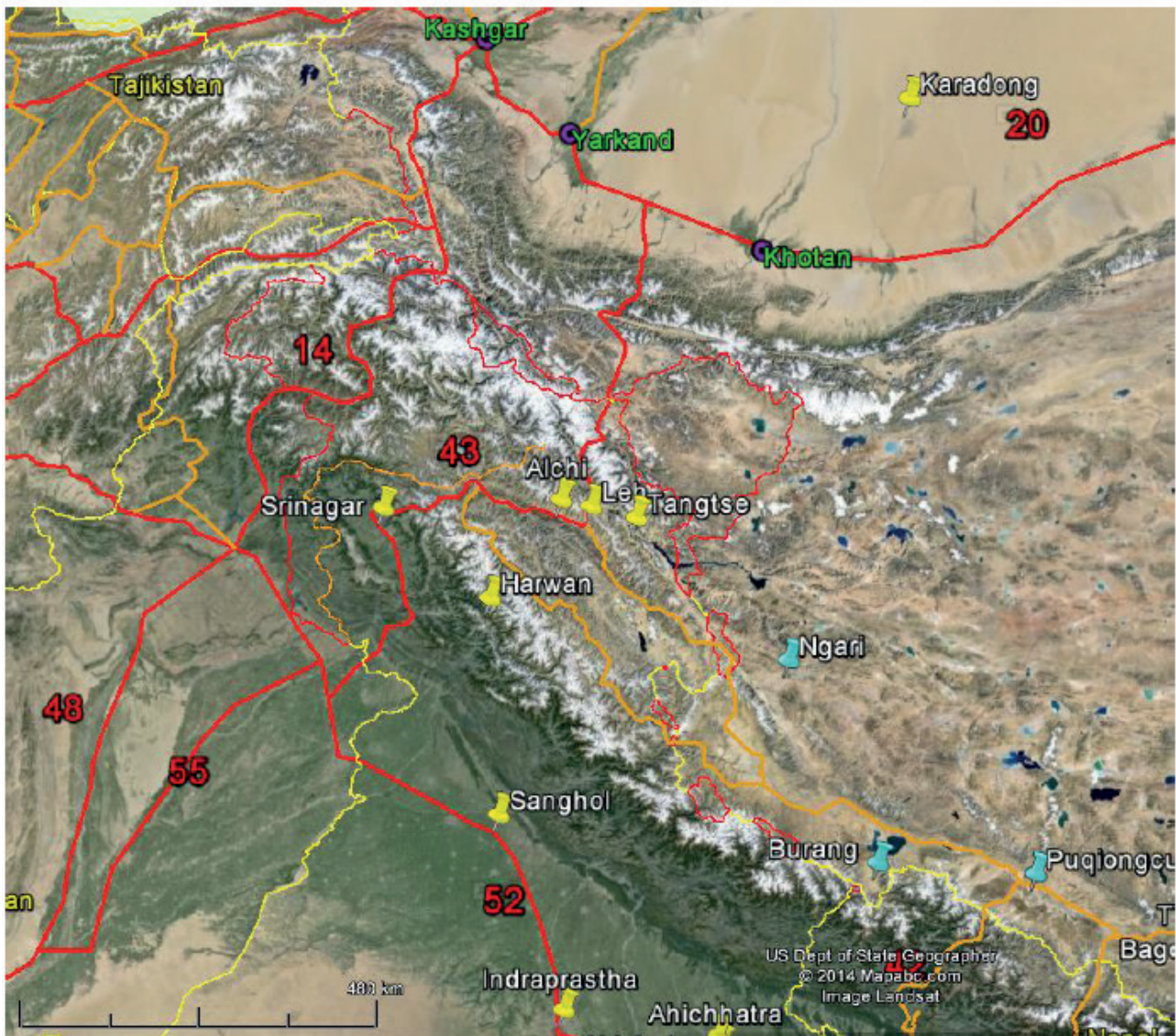


Figure 5. Southern Taklamakan to north-west India (and beyond).

3.3 Southwest Silk Roads: tea and horse

The so-called Southwest Silk Roads, or the Tea and Horse routes (Figure 6), encompassing Yunan, Sichuan, Tibet, Bhutan, Myanmar and north-east India (Darjeeling) to the coast⁹, formed a vitally important network of trade connections that had a major impact upon the development of the region (see section 4.1.3 below). There is a consideration as to whether these routes comprise part of the Silk Roads South Asian project, or might be conceived as a separate project.



Figure 6. Beginning to examine the routes between Yunan and Sichuan (right), through Bhutan and Myanmar, to India and Bangladesh.

⁹ It would be interesting to involve Bangladesh in this project, to encompass the routes down to the ports in the Bay of Bengal.

3.4 The northwest frontier routes to Central Asia

Consider developing a western project to include Afghanistan, Pakistan and India¹⁰ to enable the north-western routes from South Asia to Central Asia to be nominated (Corridors 12 and 52) (Figure 7).

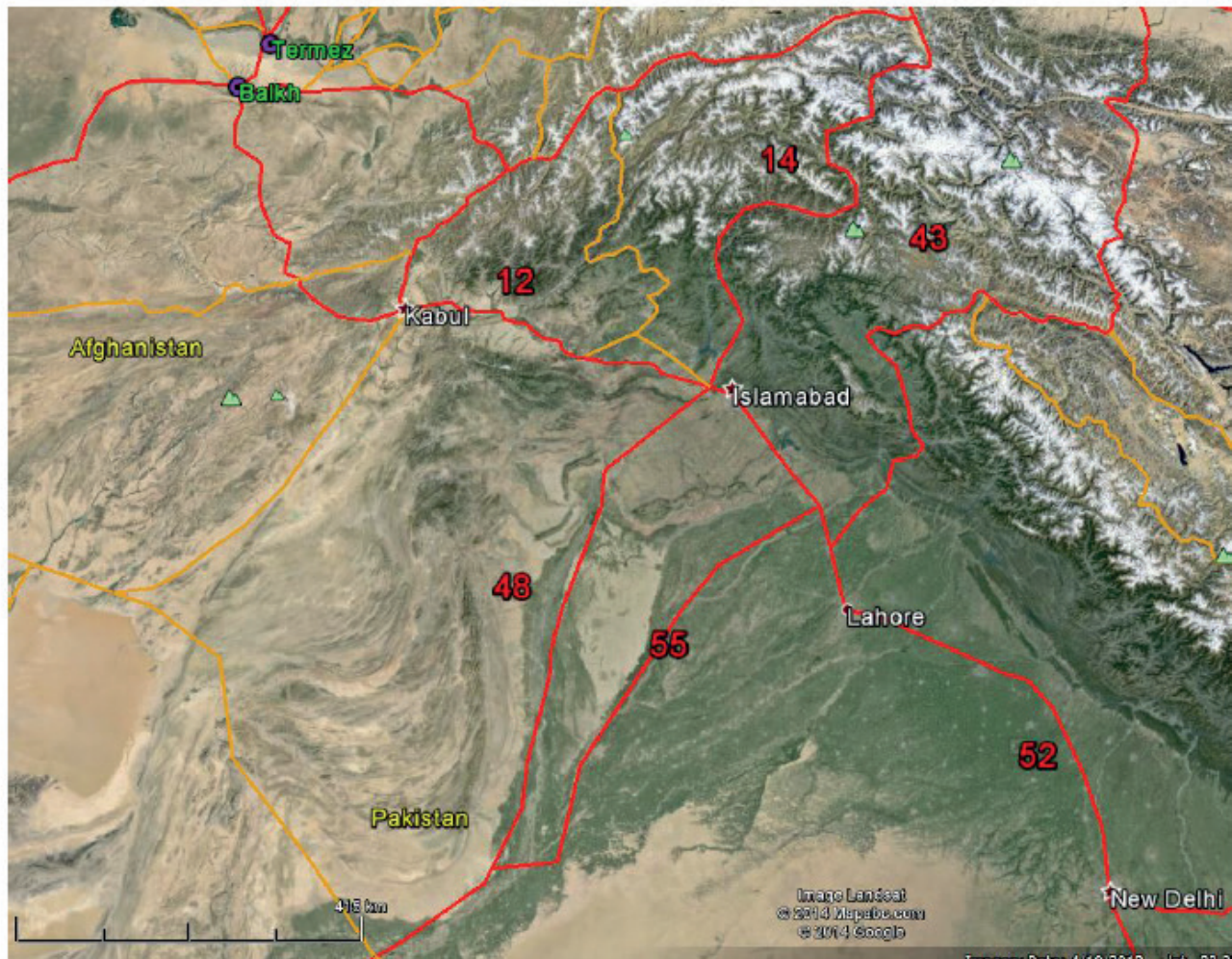


Figure 7. The northwest frontier routes to Central Asia.

¹⁰ And possibly Central Asian partners to link into the corridors in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

4 Comments on specific corridors

4.1 China

4.1.1 Southern Taklamakan routes

It would be useful to consider the extent to which this initiative would be an opportunity to encompass the southern Taklamakan routes (Corridor 20 in the ICOMOS Thematic Study). This is an internationally significant route, with a number of very important sites within the corridor (e.g. Miran, Waxxari, Charchan, Endere, Niya and Khotan), which reflect very different adaptations, chronologies and empires to the northern routes (Corridor 19: some of which were included in the first nomination project).

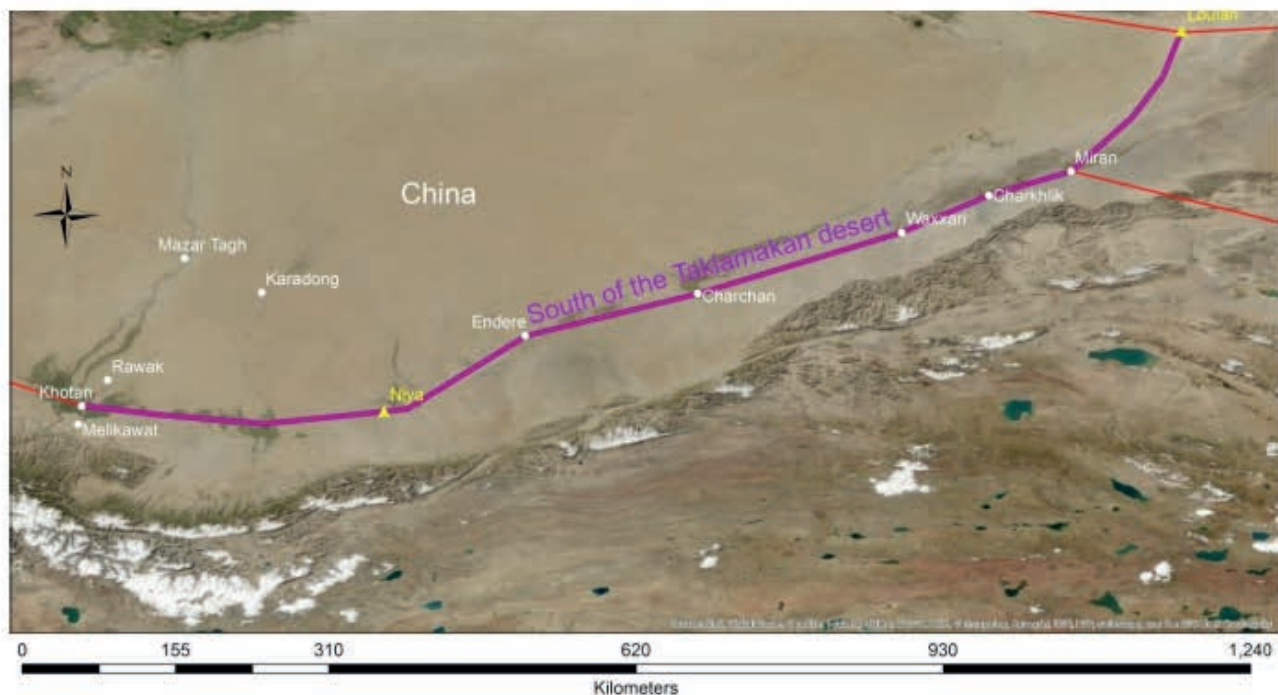


Figure 8. The Southern Taklamakan corridor.

4.1.2 The Tibetan plateau

The archaeology of the high Tibetan plateau has been explored (e.g. recently Tong 2013 for the northern area), but there is still much to do to understand the routes and surviving evidence along the plateau.

4.1.3 Yunan & Sichuan: the 'Southwest Silk Roads'

"Previous studies ... downplay the global significance of the Southwest Silk Road" (Yang 2008, 5). There is clearly a complex interaction between south-west China (especially Yunan and Sichuan provinces) and South Asia. These are hugely significant, not just the exchange for trade goods but also the movement of ideas and philosophies (e.g. Janice Stargardt's study (1971) on medieval Burma demonstrated the scale of the overland routes and their inter-relationship in the later periods with the Maritime Silk Road).

From Yunan the so-called Tea Horse Road (茶马古道) was extremely important from the Tang dynasty (618-907 CE) onwards, although its peak was probably during the late-Qing period (1790s to

1911 CE)¹¹. The routes between Sichuan and Tibet may be even earlier, and by the Song Dynasty (960-1279 CE) the tea trade from Sichuan (Ya'an) was controlled by the official 'Tea and Horse Bureau'. There are substantial documentary records of the scale of trade, in both Chinese and Tibetan, and the importance of these routes should not be under-estimated.

There are numerous surviving archaeological and monumental elements - including trails, bridges, way stations, market towns, palaces, staging posts, shrines and temples - which make it a strong nomination project. The route was not simply important for commercial activity: more significantly it was crucial for cultural exchange between the Indian subcontinent, Tibet and Southwest China, and perhaps most significantly it was vitally important for the interchange of Buddhism between China and South Asia.

These corridors would make excellent trans-national heritage route projects. Whether they should be part of the Silk Roads South Asia initiative – or a separate nomination project – is something that the State Parties may wish to debate.

4.2 India

4.2.1 Port cities

The Silk Roads corridors could be extended as far as the port cities in north-western and north-eastern India, which would provide a strong linkage to maritime Silk Routes¹². The relationship between port cities and their hinterlands was an important driver in trade contacts and is likely to have been a significant factor in stimulating the movement of materials (and peoples) from the Tibetan plateau down into the Indian subcontinent and vice versa.

4.2.2 Ladakh and the western routes

The routes through western Tibet, connecting the significant routes along the Southern Taklamakan Desert to the Indian subcontinent, were hugely important in the development of the region and the spread of religious ideas. For example, around the 1st century CE Ladakh became part of the Kushan Empire and Buddhism spread into western Ladakh from Kashmir in the 2nd century CE. By the 8th century CE, Ladakh was involved in the clash between Tibetan expansion and Chinese influence exerted from Central Asia through the high mountain passes. The routes through this region were fundamental in the spread of religious ideas, for example, Nestorian crosses carved into boulders found in Tangtse have been attributed to Sogdian Christian merchants, and Arabic inscriptions are evidence of the importance of trade in this region.

¹¹ China has already identified the Ancient Tea Plantations of Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er (see Tentative List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5810/>) as a possible World Heritage Site.

¹² A separate nomination project which may be developed at a later stage.

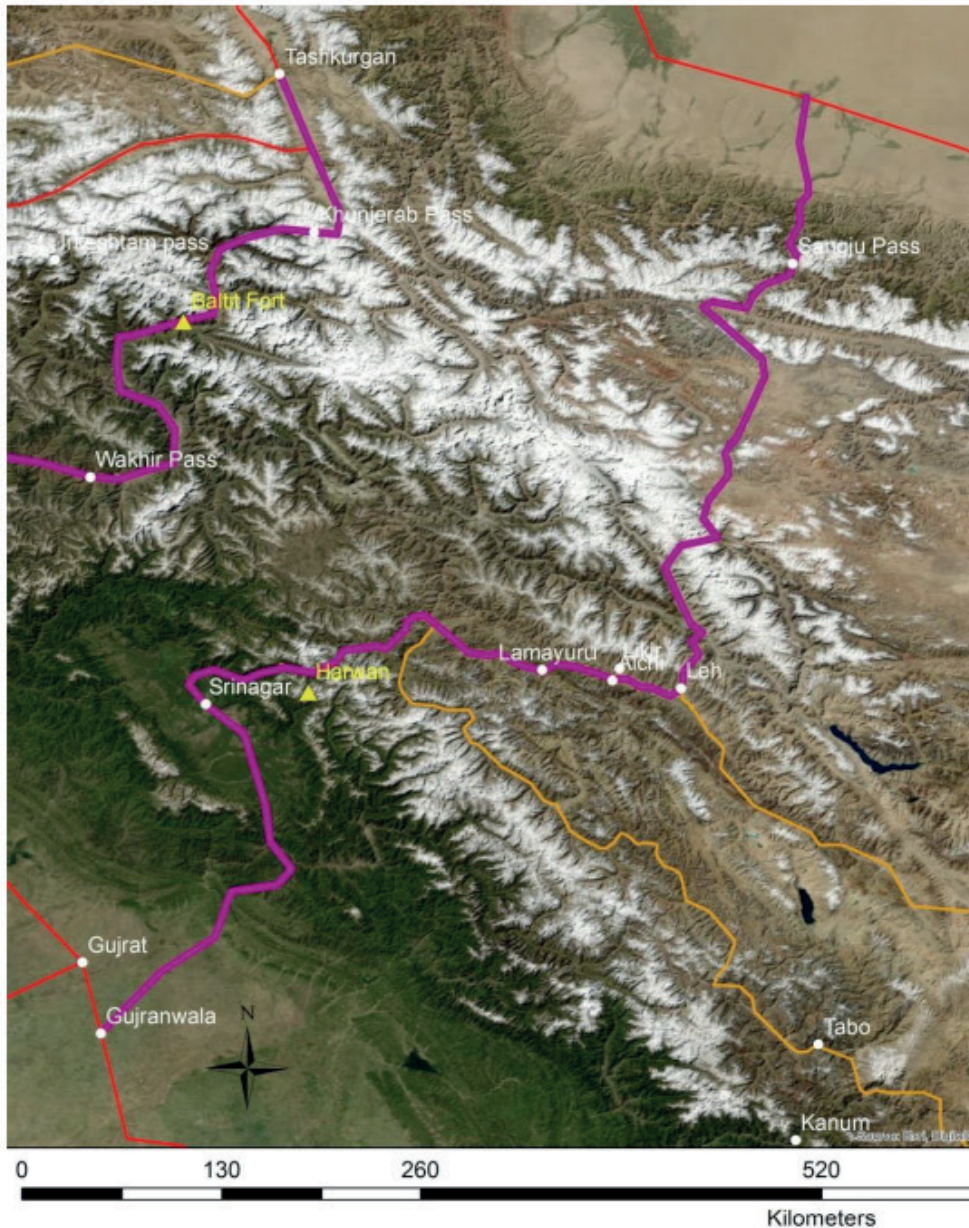


Figure 9. Through the high Karakoram – from the southern Taklamakan through Srinagar, Leh and Sangju Pass to the Gangetic Plain.

The corridors connecting the Taklamakan, Tibet and Ladakh could also be logically extended down the Indus Valley to encompass the corridors that connected this region to the coast (Corridor 55). This would, of course, involve developing Pakistan as part of this nomination.

If Pakistan were involved, then the potential of including the other major Karakoram route (via the Khunjerab and Wakhir Passes) from Tashkurgan to Taxila (Corridor 14) would make this an even stronger nomination project.

4.2.3 Darjeeling

Important routes link the Darjeeling region with the trans-Himalayan routes and down into the Indian lowlands. These routes are closely linked with those of western Bhutan and it would be an exciting project to link these corridors.

4.2.4 Routes along the Ganges

These complex corridors encompass a number of major cities and monuments. The corridor of

movement here is broad, with numerous axis of movement along the Gangetic Plain (Figure 10). These routes are vitally important, linking the trans-Himalayan trade and movement networks with highly productive agricultural areas and the interplay between terrestrial and maritime trade.

The nature of the plain suggests that extending the corridor into Bangladesh would enable the nomination to link the east-west and north-south corridors most effectively (Figure 11).



Figure 10. The Indo-Gangetic Plain: the fertile plain of the Ganges and Indus river systems.



Figure 11. The corridors through the Gangetic Plain: the wide fertile river system of the Ganges enabled sites to develop over a broad area and there were multiple routes across this landscape. At present two corridors (Corridors 38 and 39) have been defined, encompassing the main urban developments and monuments, but a single wider corridor probably may be more appropriate, linking into the network of north-south routes across the Himalayas.

4.2.5 North-south connections: around the Thar Desert to the ocean

As with the potential linking to the routes southward to the coast through the Indus Valley (see 4.6), the routes around the Thar Desert, and through Rajasthan, down to the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat,

Sopara, etc. would also be important to integrate the north-south and east-west connections.



Figure 12. The routes (not yet mapped) south-westward to the Ocean.

4.3 Nepal

The extent to which any Silk Roads nomination might integrate existing tentative list sites/landscapes, such as the *Medieval Earthen Walled City of Lo Manthang*¹³, needs to be considered.

There is still work to be done to agree the nature of the western routes in Nepal, and to provide the documentation of the sites/archaeology along these corridors.

4.4 Bhutan

The possible routes and sites/monuments/landscapes in Bhutan were discussed at a recent workshop in Bhutan (20-22 August 2014)¹⁴. The National Inventory system will be important in providing a platform to discuss site selection, but it was also recognised that Bhutan currently has limited documentation on pre-17th century sites and that it is likely that the identification of specific sites and landscapes would take some time. Indeed, there are numerous challenges to developing a Silk Roads strategy for Bhutan. The most fundamental is the lack of current research on pre-17th century archaeology, with the lack of data making the identification of routes and specific sites/monuments or landscapes for inclusion difficult at this stage.

¹³ A strategically important 15th century settlement, located on the ancient trade route that runs along the Kali Gandaki River and the Himalayas, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5256/>

¹⁴ Supported by the UNESCO/Korean Funds-in-Trust South Asian Silk Roads project.

The potential is clearly high: modern-day Bhutan occupied a crucial strategic position on the routes both from Tibetan Sichuan and Yunan (e.g. Tea Horse routes, see Freeman & Ahmed 2011; Fuchs 2008) and from Tibet down the 'southern valley' systems (e.g. Salt routes) to India and Bangladesh. The foundation of early monastic settlements (e.g. the documentary sources suggesting the foundation of the mediation centre at Taktsang Palphug Monastery in the 8th century CE; or the foundation of Choedrak Monastery in the 12th century, or Phajoding monastery in the 13th century) reinforce that there was a developed settlement pattern in the fertile valleys of Bhutan that significantly pre-dates the current monuments. The Dzongs constructed as part of the unification of Bhutan after 1616 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel were evidently securing existing polities in the important valley systems of western and central Bhutan.

There are some fundamental research issues confronting the development of the component of the National Inventory pre-dating the 17th century, not least the limited amount of archaeological work and the concomitant problems of understanding early material culture. There is a lack of research into ceramics, dating evidence, etc., compounded by the apparent continuity of material traditions in cooking vessels – and the use of metalwork and wood for high prestige goods and the use of leather sacks for storage¹⁵, all of which have significant problems of survival in the archaeological record. However, significant quantities of ceramics were recovered during the recent Swiss-Bhutanese project (Yeshe Samdrup pers. comm. 2014), which suggests that it may well be possible to develop a regional ceramic sequence. In addition, the recently published research on Ogyen Choling (Choden & Roder 2012) demonstrates the complexity of landscapes and routes, and the ability of local studies to begin to understand the development of earlier settlement landscapes.

4.5 Bangladesh

It is worth considering the inclusion of Bangladesh and Pakistan in the South Asian Silk Roads project.

The routes down through Bhutan, and also between south-western China and the Indian subcontinent, logically connect these systems with the northern trading ports in the Bay of Bengal. In addition, the routes through the Gangetic Plain (section 4.2.4) could also be seen to encompass Bangladesh.

4.6 Pakistan

The north-south routes in the west of the South Asia region would logically draw in the corridors down the Indus Valley to the coast, linking with Pakistan.

As with the Gangetic Plain routes (4.2.4), linking the north-south routes into the corridors extending down the Indus Valley would enable the full impact of these aspects of the Silk Roads to be encompassed in any nomination strategy.

Perhaps most easily the Indus Valley corridor (which would of course involve Pakistan) (Figure 13) could most successfully be integrated with the Ladakh and western Tibet routes to the Taklamakan, while the north-south routes from the central Himalayan region (through Nepal) might link into the routes running south-westward from the Gangetic Plain to the coast.

¹⁵ The Folk Heritage Museum, Thimphu.

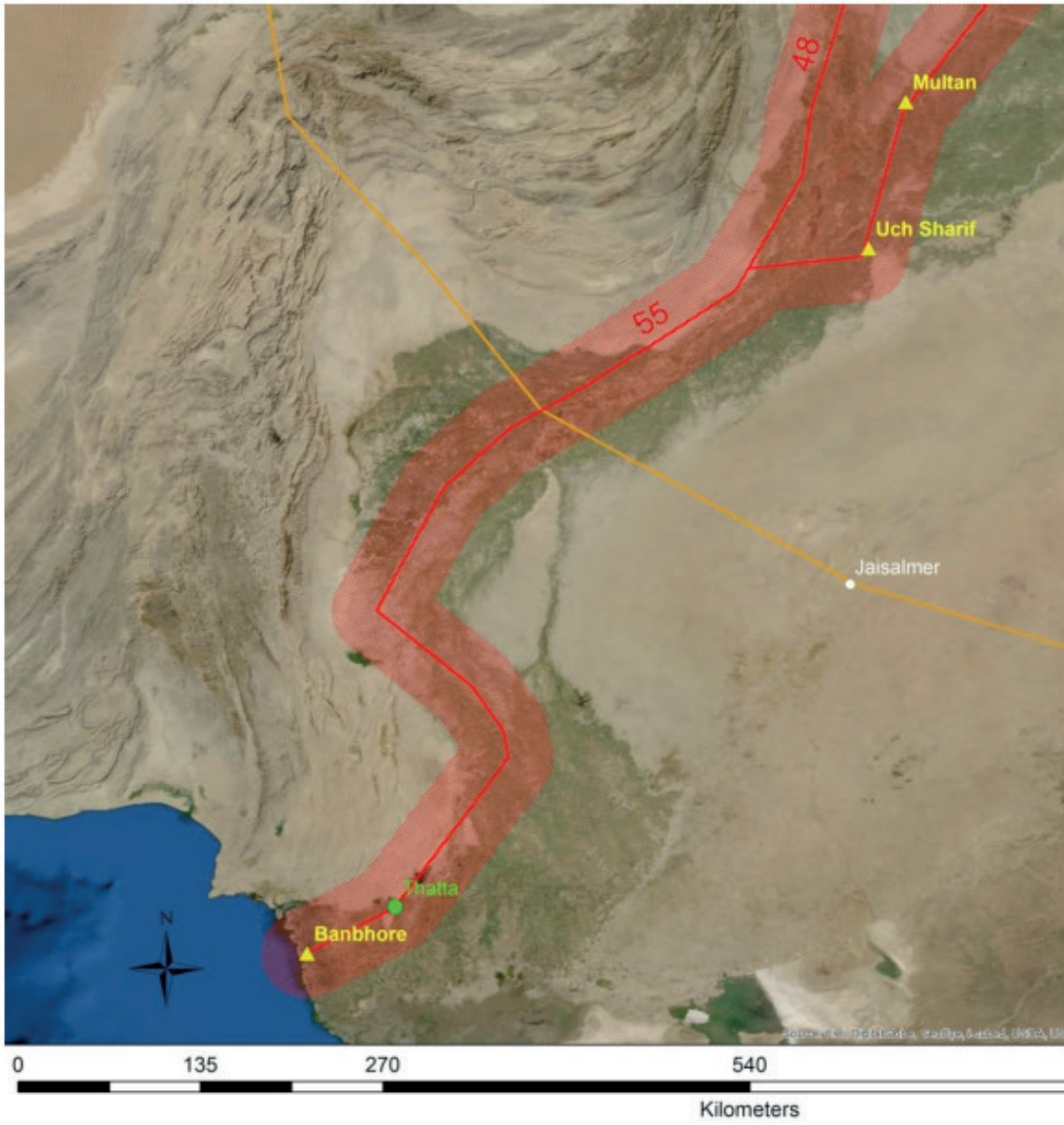


Figure 13. The Indus Valley.

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Annex VII: List of Equipment

No major equipment was purchased during the project period.

Annex VIII: Selected Evidence of Visibility

Related to the launching of the current project

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1104/>

The screenshot shows the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website. The main headline is "South Asia World Heritage Serial Nomination for the Silk Roads Project Launched with the Support of the UNESCO/Korea Funds-in-Trust". The date is Tuesday, 11 February 2014. Below the headline is a large photograph of a mountainous landscape with a traditional village. The text below the image describes the project's approval and activities. It mentions that the project was approved in July 2013 and has launched operational activities in Nepal and Bhutan. The project aims to highlight a significant portion of the Silk Roads network and may result in its inscription on the World Heritage List. The text also mentions a sub-regional workshop in Nepal in April 2014 and a fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads in May 2013. The project is supported by the UNESCO/Korea Funds-in-Trust. The text concludes by mentioning the Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List and the work of the World Heritage Committee and Asian States Parties.

Contacts

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- Reana L.N. Chh-Hung (UNESCO)

States Parties (1)

- Republic of Korea

11 February 2014						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	1	2

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Delegates from Bhutan, China, India and Nepal meet with UNESCO experts in Kathmandu to prepare the first South Asian Silk Roads Transnational World Heritage Nomination

19-24 September 2014



South Asian Silk Roads © UNESCO/Roland Lin / Roland Lin

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris and the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu in close collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal is organizing a **two-day workshop** financed under the Korean project “Support for the preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia”, on 23 and 24 September 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The workshop will be attended by representatives and experts from four South Asian countries, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal, international experts, UNESCO representatives and about 60



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22.09.2014 - UNESCO Office in Kathmandu

Delegates from Bhutan, China, India and Nepal meet with UNESCO experts in Kathmandu to prepare the first South Asian Silk Roads Transnational World Heritage Nomination (तल नेपालीमा छ)



The UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris and the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu in close collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal is organizing a two-day workshop on "Nomination strategy for the South Asian Silk

Roads" financed under the Korean project "Support for the preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia", on 23 and 24 September 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The workshop will be attended by representatives and experts from four South Asian countries, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal, international experts, UNESCO representatives and about 60 participants from Nepal, to discuss a potential Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads heritage routes.

This meeting will also have the opportunity to share the experience of the first inscribed Silk Roads World Heritage: *Initial Section of the Silk Roads, the Routes network of Chang'an - Tian-shan Corridor*, jointly prepared by China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan and inscribed in June this year. This is one of the priority transnational heritage corridors put for the first phase of the Silk Roads nomination process. However, the nomination process has not yet begun in South Asia, where the smaller network of routes holds considerable importance.

Within the framework of the Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List adopted by the World Heritage Committee, China and the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have already been working with UNESCO on this issue since 2006, supported by several regional workshops and three meetings of the intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, attended by representatives from China, the five Central Asian countries, as well as Afghanistan, India, Iran, Nepal, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The present Kathmandu workshop aims at reviewing the state of research on the potential heritage routes of the participating countries and deciding on a joint nomination strategy of the South Asian Silk Roads. The workshop will also decide on inviting representatives from Bangladesh and Pakistan, to join the preparation process of a joint South Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination.

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Delegates from Bhutan, China, India and Nepal meet with UNESCO experts in Kathmandu to prepare the first South Asian Silk Roads Transnational World Heritage Nomination

22 September 2014

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris and the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu in close collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal is organizing a two-day workshop on "Nomination strategy for the South Asian Silk Roads" financed under the Korean project "Support for the preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia", on 23 and 24 September 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The workshop will be attended by representatives and experts from four South Asian countries, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal, international experts, UNESCO representatives and about 60 participants from Nepal, to discuss a potential Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads heritage routes.

This meeting will also have the opportunity to share the experience of the first inscribed Silk Roads World Heritage: Initial Section of the Silk Roads, the Routes network of Chang'an - Tian-shan Corridor, jointly prepared by China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan and inscribed in June this year. This is one of the priority transnational heritage corridors put for the first phase of the Silk Roads nomination process. However, the nomination process has not yet begun in South Asia, where the smaller network of routes holds considerable importance.

Within the framework of the Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List adopted by the World Heritage Committee, China and the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have already been working with UNESCO on this issue since 2006, supported by several regional workshops and three meetings of the intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, attended by representatives from China, the five Central Asian countries, as well as Afghanistan, India, Iran, Nepal, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The present Kathmandu workshop aims at reviewing the state of research on the potential heritage routes of the participating countries and deciding on a joint nomination strategy of the South Asian Silk Roads. The workshop will also decide on inviting representatives from Bangladesh and Pakistan, to join the preparation process of a joint South Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to better represent the region's historical and cultural significance through a potential inscription of a South Asian Silk Roads "heritage corridor" on the World Heritage List.

Nepal had participated in the Silk Roads Coordination Committee meetings since 2009 and engaged in preliminary research and dialogue with scholars and stakeholders in Nepal including national and international experts that highlighted the existence of significant and remarkably intact archaeological features along three main routes within Nepal. However, an assembly of specific documentation of individual sites and overall routes is lacking and much more analysis is needed to understand their links with the main Silk Roads and, consequently, their potential as possible "heritage corridors" for nomination.

Silk Roads are an interconnected web of routes between the East and West that reflect the interchange between societies and cultural interactions. The ideas, values and knowledge spread over time through this network and the technological progress resulting from these interchanges contributed significantly to the development and flourishing of many of the world's great civilizations. Flourished as a two-way intercontinental trading system in particular between the 2nd century BC and end of the 16th century AD, this network of routes started initially from Chang'an (present day Xi'an) and ultimately stretching from East Asia to the Mediterranean region in the West, and down into the Indian subcontinent, stretches up to Antioch, the modern Antakya in what is Turkey today.

The present Kathmandu workshop would testify to the great interest of the participating countries for presenting their unique contribution to Asia's wealth of cultural heritage sites and monuments that express common historical experiences of the countries along the route.

Related to the 4th Silk Roads Serial World Heritage Nomination Coordinating Committee Meeting (24-26 November 2015)

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4th Silk Roads Serial World Heritage Nomination Coordinating Committee Meeting

24-26 November 2015



Central Asia By Darya Silk Roads Heritage Corridor © UNESCO / Roland LIN

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO, with the support of the UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust and the UNESCO Korean Funds-in-Trust Silk Roads projects, is organizing the 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Silk Roads Serial World Heritage Nomination from 24 to 26 November 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Fourth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads



Following the Fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 24-26 November 2015, more than 50 representatives and experts from twelve countries together with UNESCO representatives, international experts and representatives of IICC Xi'an (China), on December 22, 2015 the Secretariat of Silk Roads Coordination Committee released a list of recommendations for further activities to pave the way forward for the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination.



Main objectives of the Almaty Meeting were:

- to update the Terms of Reference of the Silk Roads Coordination Committee;
- to review the State of Conservation on the first inscribed Serial Transnational Nomination "Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tianshan Corridor" (China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan);
- to review the current status of the referred nomination "Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor" (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan);
- to review the progress of the Silk Road World Heritage

Nominations processes including the South Asian Silk Roads (Nepal, Bhutan, China and India), the Fergana-Syrdarya Silk Roads Heritage Corridor (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), as well as other Silk Roads initiatives from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan.

The Meeting also reviewed the results of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-In-Trust (FIT) project "Support of documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia", 2011-2014 as well as the UNESCO Korean-Funds-In-Trust South Asian Silk Road project and to officially launch the UNESCO/Japanese FIT project "Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia" (Phase II, 2015-2018). Finally, the Meeting also discussed potential needs regarding further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia and Western Asia.

This Almaty meeting was successfully organized by financial contributions from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Regular Programme, the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Central Asian Silk Roads project, the UNESCO/Korea Funds-in-Trust South Asian Silk Roads project, and support from the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO (under Kazakhstan MFA). The Silk Roads nomination process now includes the following fourteen countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) that are members of the Silk Roads Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee, as well as Bhutan as an observer.

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PAGES

- ▶ Creative drawing contest "Strong UN. Better world"
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- ▶ Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their role in society
- ▶ Round table: State of Conservation of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi
- ▶ The UNESCO programme "Travel to learn arts and crafts"
- ▶ Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their role in society
- ▶ Round table: State of Conservation of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi
- ▶ The UNESCO programme "Travel to learn arts and crafts"
- ▶ Message from Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, 21 May 2016.
- ▶ Message from Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the International Day of Nowruz, 21 March 2016
- ▶ #OurWorldHeritage Instagram competition

10B. Follow-up of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the other regions and general reflection on Periodic Reporting

Decision: 39 COM 10B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decisions 36 COM 10A, 37 COM 10C.1 and 38 COM 10B.1 adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th session (Doha, 2014) respectively;
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region;
4. Thanks the governments of Japan, Korea and the Netherlands for their contributions to supporting World Heritage follow-up activities on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region;
5. Also thanks the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, for its contribution to the implementation of activities concluded in the Capacity-Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific (CBSAP-AP) for the follow-up to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting; and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China) for its initiative in promoting regional cooperation on World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific;
6. Takes note of the progress made on the Silk Roads nomination process, initiated by the Asian States Parties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, that includes fruitful cooperation between national institutions from various Asian States Parties resulting in an example of best practice for other serial transnational nominations, and developing a tool for international cooperation, shared approaches, better management and conservation practice, as well as sustainable tourism management of the Silk Road heritage corridors;
7. Reiterates its invitation to Asia and the Pacific States Parties to actively implement the respective sub-Regional Action Plans and also encourages them to intensify their contributions to the implementation of follow-up activities while working closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the follow-up activities to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting at its 40th session in 2016.

Annex X: Almaty Agreement (November 2015)

Fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads, 24-25 November 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Introduction:

As a result of previous international and regional consultation meetings and the efforts of the three previous Coordinating Committee Meetings between 2006 and 2012, two Silk Roads World Heritage nomination files were prepared and submitted by 1st February 2013. These nominations were examined at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in June 2014 (Doha, Qatar). Subsequently, the Committee inscribed the *“The Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an - Tian-shan Corridor”*, submitted by the States Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The 4th Coordinating Committee Meeting brought together national focal points and experts from twelve countries which included nine countries members of the Silk Roads Coordination Committee: Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and three partner countries: Bhutan, Pakistan and Turkey. The meeting also invited representatives from IICC Xi’an (China), the Secretariat of Silk Roads Coordination Committee, as well as UNESCO representatives and international resource persons to ensure the discussions on further technical assistance and cooperation.

Aim:

The aim of the Almaty Meeting was to review and update the Terms of Reference of the Silk Roads Coordination Committee; the State of Conservation on the first inscribed Serial Transnational Nomination *“Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an – Tianshan Corridor”* (China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan); the Current status of the referred nomination *“Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor”* (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan); to review the progress of the Silk Road World Heritage Nominations processes including the South Asian Silk Roads (Nepal, Bhutan, China and India), the *Fergana-Syrdarya* Silk Roads Heritage Corridor (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) as well as other Silk Roads initiatives from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. Furthermore, the Meeting also reviewed the results of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust (FIT) project “Support of documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia”, 2011-2014, officially launched the UNESCO/Japanese FIT project “Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia” (Phase II, 2015-2018) and reviewed the results of the ongoing UNESCO/Republic of Korea FIT South Asian Silk Roads project, 2013-2015. Finally, the Meeting also discussed potential needs regarding further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia and Western Asia.

Main Outcomes:

The participants of the meeting agreed on the following:

1. To update the Terms of Reference of the Silk Roads Coordination Committee; including welcoming Pakistan and Turkey as Coordination Committee members and Bhutan as an observer;
2. To note the good results of the UNESCO/Japanese FIT project “Support of documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia”, 2011-2014;

3. To acknowledge the official launch of the UNESCO/Japanese FIT project “Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia” (Phase II, 2015-2018);
4. To further strengthen the collaboration between China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on the effective monitoring of the State of Conservation for the first inscribed Serial Transnational Nomination “Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an – Tianshan Corridor”;
5. To reinforce the existing Expert Group of representatives from Central Asia and China, in collaboration with the IICC – Xi’an, Secretariat of the Coordinating Committee, through virtual communications;
6. To welcome further work on the referred nomination “Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor” by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and welcome Turkmenistan in preparation of the nomination dossier on the Silk Roads corridors located within the territory of Turkmenistan;
7. To note the good results of the UNESCO/Korea Funds-in-Trust South Asian Silk Roads project, 2013-2015;
8. To encourage close consultation and coordination between Nepal, Bhutan, China and India on the preparation of the South Asian Silk Road World Heritage Nominations, and express the desire to continue the UNESCO/Korea Funds-in-Trust South Asian Silk Roads project (Phase II), and encourage Pakistan and other related South Asian countries to join this nomination process;
9. To encourage the close consultation and coordination between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan about the preparation of the Fergana-Syrdarya Silk Roads Heritage Corridor World Heritage Nomination process;
10. To acknowledge the efforts of other Silk Roads initiatives from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan;
11. To enhance the technical capacity of the respective governments, UNESCO National Commissions, and/or relevant authorities within each participating State Party for the preparation of the Silk Roads World Heritage nominations (both national and transnational);
12. To develop and implement an appropriate management system and tourism strategy for the identified Silk Roads nominations (both national and transnational);
13. To enhance the exchange of information related to the required documentation for preparation of nomination dossiers; and to further take note of UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform;
14. To call upon all participating State Parties to allocate the necessary funds and resources for the timely preparation of nomination dossiers;
15. To recognize the needs and the continuation for further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia and Western Asia with active support from the participating countries;
16. To extend the functions of two co-chairpersons until the next Coordinating Committee on the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads

Furthermore, the meeting also noted the potential target date for the official submission of the referred nomination “*Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor*” transnational nomination dossier to be **1 February 2017**, it is desirable for the participating countries to submit the required information to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible.

The meeting welcomed the proposal of Iran to co-host with UNESCO the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee to take place in Iran before end 2016.

Delegates of the Fourth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads expressed their gratitude to the:

- Government of Kazakhstan, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO, the Ministry of Culture and Sport, and other authorities in Kazakhstan, for hosting the meeting, for their warm hospitality, for their support, and for the provision of favourable conditions that allowed the successful organisation of the meeting;
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Offices in Almaty and Tashkent as well as to the international resource persons for facilitating the meeting;

Moreover, participants were extremely appreciative for the financial contributions for the meeting from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Regular Programme, the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Central Asian Silk Roads project and the UNESCO/Korea Funds-in-Trust South Asian Silk Roads project, as well as support from the Government of Kazakhstan.

Annex XI: Minutes of the Workshop discussion on “South Asian Silk Roads” for Bhutan, China, India and Nepal (November 2015)

Attended by representatives of Bhutan, China (IICC Xi’an), Nepal and Pakistan; with observers from Republic of Korea, Tim Williams (ICOMOS) and Roland Lin (UNESCO/WHC).

A productive discussion was held to review progress and ways forward with the South Asian Silk Roads project. This identified a number of key issues.

On the positive side:

1) The progress being made by **Nepal** and **Bhutan** in developing and enhancing National Inventories. Both State Parties are planning to use the ARCHES system, and there may be considerable benefits in developing the dialogue between the two in its development and implementation. The Korean-Funds-In-Trust generous support for this process was acknowledged.

2) The potential contribution of **Pakistan** to the discussion of trans-Himalayan routes was recognised and encouraged. The development of further dialogue regarding routes through Pakistan was seen as important – to the north-west with Afghanistan, to the north-east with India and China, and to the south-east with India.

Issues that need attention:

3) The development of dialogue with **India** seems to have weakened since the retirement of Dr B.R. Mani, Additional Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India. It was not clear who had taken on the responsibility for the South Asian Silk Roads within the ASI and this needed to be resolved in order to develop future participation.

4) The participation of **China** in the project appeared to be currently lacking official support. Whilst dialogue had taken place at the last South Asian meeting in Nepal, which included Prof Lyu (Lu) Zhou (from Tsinghua University, Director of National Heritage Centre and Vice-president of ICOMOS-China, and an expert in the ‘Tea & Horse Routes’), it seems that National Commission of UNESCO China and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage are not yet engaged in the project. This needs to be addressed if the South Asian project is going to effectively progress.

5) The potential participation of **Bangladesh** and **Myanmar** was discussed, and it was suggested that initial dialogue should be developed.

6) The future support of the **Korean-Funds-in-Trust** was seen as central to the development of effective dialogue within the region for this project.

Some of these issues are reflected in point 8 of the Almaty Agreement of Fourth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads, 24-25 November 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan:

8. To encourage close consultation and coordination between Nepal, Bhutan, China and India on the preparation of South Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Nominations, and express the desire to continue the UNESCO/Korea Funds-in-Trust South Asian Silk Roads project (Phase II), and encourage Pakistan and other related South Asian countries to join this nomination process.

Annex XII: Concept Note for UNESCO Korean FIT Project (2017-2019): Support for the Asian Silk Road World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II) (June 2016)

Project Title	Support for the Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II)
Country / Place:	State Parties in Asia
Executing Agency:	World Heritage Centre in close collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices in Asia
Duration /Timeframe:	2017 – 2019
Proposed Budget:	US \$ 350,000 (including support costs)

I. **Objective of the proposed project “Support for the Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II)**

The immediate objective of the proposed project is to assist the Asian State Parties in the development of serial and transnational nomination(s) for the Silk Roads through:

1. Continuation and further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia and Western Asia, with active support from the participating countries;
2. Active participation in the future Silk Roads Coordinating Committee Meeting(s) on the Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads;
3. Organisation of workshops and meetings to agree, between related Asian State Parties, priority transnational heritage corridors for the Silk Roads nomination process;
4. Creation of an Expert Group of delegates from Asian State Parties, in collaboration with UNESCO and the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (IICC-Xian), Secretariat of the Coordination Committee, through virtual communications and when necessary through workshops and meetings for scientific monitoring the preparation process;
5. Enhancement of technical capacity through the designation of National Project Managers/ Focal Points by governments, UNESCO National Commissions, or relevant authorities within each participating Asian State Party, for the preparation of the nominations (both national and transnational); Elaboration/compilation of appropriate documentation of the potential sites along the Silk Roads and;
6. Development and implementation of an appropriate management system for the identified Silk Roads nominations (both national and transnational);
7. Elaboration/compilation of serial and transnational nomination(s) for the Silk Roads.

II. Results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project “Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia” (2013-2016, budget code 526RAS4014)

Within the framework of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust (FiT), the World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with the UNESCO offices in Kathmandu and New Delhi, is now concluding the extra-budgetary project “Support for the Preparation of the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia” (June 2013 to August 2016, USD 200,000, including 13% programme support). The goal of this project was to provide and coordinate a cooperation platform between China, Nepal, India and Bhutan, focusing on a network of routes in this sub-region. The objective of assisting the relevant South Asian States Parties in the preparation of a serial and transnational nomination (or nominations) for the Silk Roads was to be achieved through four main activities:

III. consultation mission(s) and training workshop(s) in Bhutan and in Nepal;

1. a sub-regional workshop in Nepal (Kathmandu, 23-24 September 2014);
2. the drafting of a World Heritage Nomination Strategy and Guidance for South Asia Silk Roads by an outside party (in close collaboration with the relevant specialized Agencies of the South Asian countries and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre); and
3. a 4th meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (24-25 November 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan).

Here are the major results of the project:

1. *“South Asian Silk Roads: Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination Strategy” has been drafted and adopted;*
2. *Recommendations and Guidance for the South Asian Silk Roads have been formulated;*
3. *The “Draft Action Plan in consideration of the submission deadline of 1 February 2018 for the first South Asian priority transnational heritage corridor(s)” has been adopted at the sub-regional workshop on 23-24 September 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal; and*
4. *The “Almaty Agreement” has been adopted in the 4th meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads on 24-25 November 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to pave the way forward for the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s).*

This UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT extra-budgetary project was important to reinforce the capacity of national authorities in each of the South Asian countries, particularly Bhutan and Nepal, for the documentation and survey of archaeological and architectural sites and the digitalization of archives. At sub-regional level, the project also helped set up transnational documentation strategies and methodologies and information sharing systems. The project also showed that a significant investment in technological resources and strong support for local capacity building are further essential elements in transnational and serial nominations, particularly when a project involves approaches and techniques that are new to the States Parties. By involving all States Parties in this challenging serial transnational property, the steps taken towards transnational cooperation, the technological investments and the local capacity building carried out as part of the project’s implementation help to ensure that, eventually, these sites can become sustainable, effectively-managed World Heritage properties.

The UNESCO Final Report and the Technical Final Report for this project are currently being drafted. These two reports will be submitted to both the Donor country (Republic of Korea) and the Beneficiary countries (Bhutan, China, India and Nepal) in the coming months.

IV. **Almaty Agreement: the Key Result of the 4th meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 23-27 November 2015**

The 4th Coordinating Committee brought together national Focal Points and experts from the fourteen countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and other partner organisations. The meeting reviewed the progress accomplished as part of the Silk Road World Heritage Nominations process, including the South Asian Silk Roads, the Silk Roads Syr Darya Heritage Corridor and other initiatives such as the Maritime Silk Roads. It also considered the potential need for further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study, covering Eastern and Western Asia.

The key result of the 4th meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads is the **Almaty Agreement** adopted by the participants. The participants of the meeting agreed on the following points that are relevant to the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT Silk Roads project:

- To note the good results of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust South Asian Silk Roads project, 2013-2015;
- To encourage close consultation and coordination between Nepal, Bhutan, China and India on the preparation of the South Asian Silk Road World Heritage Nominations, and express the desire to continue the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT South Asian Silk Roads project (Phase II), and encourage Pakistan and other related South Asian countries to join this nomination process;
- To recognize the needs and the continuation for further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia and Western Asia with active support from the participating countries.

Within the context of the wider Silk Roads Coordination meeting in Almaty, a side meeting was organized to explore progress on the South Asian Silk Roads and involved representatives of Bhutan (Wangchuk Dorji and Samdrup Yeshi from Department of Culture), China (Erwu Li and Xiaochen Zhou from IICC Xi'an and Chen Ling, Professor of Peking University), Nepal (Damodar Gautam and Suresh Suras Shrestha from the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation) and Pakistan (Nasir-Un-Din Mashhood Ahmad Mirza and Muhammad Afzal, from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage); observers from the Republic of Korea (Gyeonggyu Mun from the Cultural Heritage Administration and In Uk Kang, Professor at Kyunghee University) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (Seyed Vahid Ahmadiroini, ICHHTO); along with UNESCO expert Tim Williams (UCL & ICOMOS) and representative of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Roland Lin (UNESCO/WHC).

A number of key issues have been identified:

1. Good progress had been made at national level in some countries, especially in Nepal, with research on the Lumbini-Mustang heritage corridor;
2. Progress is also being made by Nepal and Bhutan in developing and enhancing National Inventories, and there may be considerable benefits in developing a dialogue between the two countries for the development and implementation of these inventories. The UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust's generous support for this process was acknowledged;
3. The potential contribution of Pakistan to the discussion of trans-Himalayan routes was evoked and encouraged (the meeting recognised the importance of routes through Pakistan – to the north-west with Afghanistan, to the north-east with India and China, and to the south-east with India);
4. The potential participation of Bangladesh and Myanmar should be developed; and
5. The future support of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT was seen as central to the development of an effective dialogue within the region for this project.

V. General Updated Description of Serial and Transnational Nomination of Silk Roads World Heritage

What has been achieved so far:

Since 2003, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre has played a key role in the coordination of the serial transnational World Heritage nomination(s) of the Silk Roads, initiated by five Central Asian countries and China. The nomination process for the Silk Roads now includes fourteen countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) that are members of the Silk Roads Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee, as well as Bhutan as an observer. Along the lines of the 'Heritage Corridor' nomination approach outlined in the 2011 ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study, the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust and the Chinese authorities, together with ICOMOS, IICAS (the International Institute for Central Asian Studies, a UNESCO Category II Centre based in Samarkand, Uzbekistan) and the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (IICC-Xian), have supported the development of two Silk Roads nomination dossiers by China and Central Asian countries. At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the "Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an - Tian-Shan Corridor" (after a nomination submitted by China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) on the World Heritage List, under criteria (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi). At the same session, the Committee referred back to the States Parties of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan the nomination for "Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor," requesting them to provide more detailed information and further clarifications and analyses regarding the sites and their context, location and management.

What is currently being undertaken:

The use of sustained sub-regional cooperation and ongoing international cooperation is currently being replicated in the South Asian Silk Roads (China, India, Nepal and Bhutan) and again in Central Asia "Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor" (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan). This system has the potential to become a model for capacity building and the preparation of serial transnational nominations worldwide. Activities currently being undertaken are listed below:

- **"South Asian Silk Roads"** (China, India, Nepal and Bhutan) and UNESCO/Korea FiT project "Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia" (July 2013- August 2016).
- Developing a **"Common Tourism Strategy for the Silk Roads Heritage Corridor in Central Asia and China"**: The Silk Roads World Heritage nomination process revealed the importance of increased cooperation between the States Parties. Such cooperation is a necessity for the development of Management Plans and of strategies for the sites connected through the Silk Roads corridors in China and Central Asia. The preservation and management of the sites—and the culture of development and international cooperation initiatives based on them—can only be successful if a coordinated strategy exists between States Parties. These initiatives also respond to the growing demand for Silk Roads tourism, in partnership with the on-going project "Developing a Common Tourism Strategy for the Silk Roads Heritage Corridor in Central Asia and China," administered by the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- **"Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor"** (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan) and Phase II of the UNESCO/Japan FiT project, "Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia"
- **"Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor"** (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan): Within the same above-mentioned Phase II of the UNESCO/Japan FiT project, UNESCO and the Japanese experts are providing the technical assistance to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan with regard to the nomination of the "Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor," referred back the Committee, particularly regarding the requested clarifications and the analysis of the sites and their context, location and management.

- Other initiatives:
 - **Maritime Silk Roads (China):** In 2008, China has updated the World Heritage Tentative List by including a Chinese Section of the Silk Roads with both Land Routes and Sea Routes.
 - **Mausam: Maritime Routes and Cultural Landscapes (India):** The Ministry of Culture of India launched the 'Mausam' project on 20 June 2014, at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee. The aim of Project 'Mausam: Maritime Routes and Cultural Landscapes' is to position itself at two levels: 1) at the macro level, with an aim to re-connect and re-establish communication between countries of the Indian Ocean, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values and concerns; and 2) at the micro level, with a focus on understanding national cultures in their regional maritime milieu. More importantly, shared knowledge systems and ideas spread along these routes and impacted both coastal centres, in addition to large parts of their surrounding areas. The project, launched by India in partnership with other Member States, hopes to represent a significant step towards recording and celebrating this important phase of world history from the perspectives of the African, Arab and Asian world.

What is hoped to be undertaken in the future:

UNESCO is currently unable to indicate very precisely what the further needs will be, since this will depend on the participating States Parties' respective decisions and priorities. However, the following urgent needs have been identified at this stage:

- Address the potential need for further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia and Western Asia;
- Continue providing technical and financial support for the preparation and process of
 1. the "South Asian Silk Roads" (China, India, Nepal and Bhutan),
 2. the "Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor" (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan), and
 3. "Silk Roads Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor" (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan);
- Provide technical assistance, if requested, to the new partners /countries (notably Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Pakistan and Turkey) who were invited to join the 4th meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads (23-27 November 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan);
- Invite Bangladesh and Myanmar to join the future meeting(s) of the Silk Roads Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee, as suggested;
- Provide technical assistance, if requested, to emphasize the important role of the Silk Roads in promoting exchanges and dialogue, in order to strengthen the capacity of the Member States concerned in the protection and management of their common cultural heritage along the Silk Roads under the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

VI. Proposed Activities of the Korean FiT project "Support for the Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II)"

Main activities: In close cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO, national institutions, experts from the Asian States Parties as well as with ICOMOS, ICCROM and other international experts, the following activities are foreseen within the scope of the proposed project:

1. Support UNESCO and ICOMOS to further extend the Silk Roads Thematic Study to Eastern and Northern Asia, including Mongolia, Korea and Japan, as well as to Western Asia with active support from the participating countries;
2. Provision of technical and financial support to Asian Developing Countries for their active participation in the future Silk Roads Coordinating Committee Meeting(s) on the Serial

and Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads;

3. Organisation of workshops and/or meetings to agree, between related Asian State Parties, on the priority transnational heritage corridors for the Silk Roads nomination process;
4. Provision of technical and financial support for the creation of an Expert Group of delegates from Asian State Parties, in collaboration with UNESCO and the IICC-Xi'an, the Secretariat of the Coordination Committee, through virtual communications, and when necessary through workshops and meetings for scientific monitoring the preparation process;
5. Provision of technical and financial support for the enhancement of technical capacities through the designation of National Project Managers/Focal Points by Governments, UNESCO National Commissions, or relevant authorities within each participating Asian State Party, for the preparation of the nominations (both at national and transnational levels);
6. Provision of technical and financial support for the development and implementation of an appropriate management system for the identified Silk Roads nominations (both at national and transnational levels);
7. Provision of technical and financial support for the elaboration/compilation of serial and transnational nomination(s) for the Silk Roads.

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