

INDIA

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1977

Organization submitting the report

- Natural Heritage Section I:
Ministry of Environment & Forests,
New Delhi
India
- Cultural Heritage Section I:
Archaeological Survey of India (ASI),
New Delhi
India

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- NH: In 1988, the Wildlife Inst. of India initiated a “comprehensive document on the wildlife protected area network in India”. The periodic review covers biogeographic classification (across all biomes); important ecological, floral, geomorphological & zoological areas; and proposes recommendations for new protected areas. The 3rd updated edition was published in 2002.
- NH: All state governments have detailed inventories of significant protected/forest areas. Concerned forest & wildlife divisions maintain detailed accounts of each site.
- CH: Inventories of monuments & sites of national importance (currently 3,611) and state-level significance are maintained by the ASI (since 1904) and the respective state Archaeology Departments.
- CH: NGOs and municipalities have undertaken the listing of buildings & sites at the local level.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- 15 sites, revised in January 2001 after discussion between the ASI and the Dept of Culture.
- CH: In view of the WH Committee decision to include under-represented categories of sites, “the tentative list is being revised with state government authorities and different ministries... local bodies and NGOs are being involved on a regional basis.”

Nominations and the nomination process

- 1982 10 nominations (submitted in incomplete form)
(a) Red Fort, Delhi
(b) Excavated remains at Lothal, Gujarat
(c) Martand Temple, Jammu & Kashmir
(d) Gol Gumpaz, Karnataka
(e) Monuments at Aihole, Karnataka
(f) The Caves of Karla, Maharashtra

- (g) Chittorgarh Fort & Monuments, Rajasthan
- (h) Akbar's Tomb, Sikandra
- (i) Itimud-ud Daula Tomb, Agra
- (j) Excavated remains Kalibangan, Rajasthan
 - 1983 4 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Ajanta Caves
(b) Ellora Caves
(c) Agra Fort
(d) Taj Mahal
 - 1984 2 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Sun Temple, Konarak
(b) Group of Monuments, Mahabalipuram
 - 1984 3 nominations (deferred)
(a) Ranthambhore National Park
(b) Kahna National Park
(c) Rann of Kutch Sanctuary
 - 1985 3 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Kaziranga National Park
(b) Manas National Park
(c) Keoladeo National Park
 - 1986 4 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Churches & Convents of Goa
(b) Khajuraho Group of Monuments
(c) Hampi Group of Monuments
(d) Fatehpur Sikri
 - 1987 4 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Pattadakal Group of Monuments
(b) Elephanta Caves
(c) Brihadisvara Temple
(d) Sundarbans National Park
 - 1988 1 nomination (inscribed)
(a) Nanda Devi National Park
 - 1989 1 nomination (inscribed)
(a) Buddhist Monuments, Sanchi
 - 1990 1 nomination (deferred)
(a) Silent Valley National Park
 - 1991 1 nomination (not inscribed)
(a) Gir National Park
 - 1992 1 nomination (not inscribed)
(a) Wild Ass Sanctuary
 - 1993 2 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Humayun's Tomb, Delhi
(b) Brihadisvara Temple
(c) Red Fort (deferred)
 - 1998 11 nominations (all deferred)
(a) Buddhist Monastery Complex at Alchi
(b) Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal
(c) Golkonda Fort, Andhra Pradesh
(d) Mattanchery Palace, Kerala
(e) Dholavira, a Harappan City, Gujarat
(f) Ancient Buddhist site, Sarnath, Bihar
(g) Group of Monuments Mandu, Madhya Pradesh
(h) Tomb of Sher Shah Suri, Bihar
(i) Rani-ki-vav, Gujarat
 - 2000 1 nomination (inscribed)
(a) Mahabodhi Temple Complex, Bihar
 - 2002 3 nominations (deferred from 1998)
(a) Champaner-Pavagadh
(b) Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka

(c) Victoria Terminus

- NH: Local authorities prepare natural nominations in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The motivation for nomination is to enhance global image, encourage research, and promote ecotourism.

1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

Integration of heritage and planning

- NH: Site managers prepare park management plans for a period of 5-10 years in consultation with NGOs, people's representatives & research institutions. These are later submitted as 'state plans' to the MOEF.
- NH: Some of the important schemes supported by the central government include: (i) ecodevelopment in & around protected areas; (ii) Project Tiger; (iii) Project Elephant; (iv) Wetland Conservation Programme; (v) conservation & management of coral reefs; and (vi) biosphere reserves.
- NH: Important legislation includes the Indian Forest Act (1927); Wildlife Protection Act (1972); Forest Conservation Act (1980); Environment Protection Act (1986); and Biodiversity Conservation Act (2002).
- NH: The MOEF is also the nodal agency for 9 multilateral environmental conventions (CBD, CITES, Ramsar, UNCLOS, Kyoto Protocol etc.).
- CH: A detailed cultural policy is being drafted by the Dept. of Culture, which includes tangible and intangible heritage of the country.
- CH: ASI has formulated a 5-year 'Perspective Plan' (2002-2007) handled at both national & local levels.
- CH: The 'Central Advisory Board of Archaeology' (CABA) comprises of representatives from different universities, state governments, and the ASI.

Participation of local communities

- NH: Since 1990, 63,000 Joint Forest Management Committees have been established covering 14.25 million ha of forests.
- NH: 1400 NGOs work in the field of environment & conservation. 14 major partners are listed.
- CH: Local civil bodies are "always consulted" in the preparation of nominations, and enlisted for their artisanal skills as sculptors, masons & stone cutters.

Tourism Development

- NH: The 'National Tourism Policy 2002' recognises the "deep-rooted relationship with natural and cultural heritage" and seeks to improve sanitation, circuit roads, rail & waterways; and develop village, adventure & wildlife tourism.
- CH: The national tourism strategy focuses on economic & social development. Visitor flow is nonetheless regulated with admission tickets.

- CH: A danger from tourism is recognised of "uncontrolled insensitive and illegal commercial activity [which] continues unabated."

Financial measures and budget allowance

- NH: "Funds are provided annually from state plan and non-plan schemes and centrally sponsored schemes". 15 areas are listed. No figures supplied.
- CH: Funds for World Heritage are part of the regular budget. No figures supplied.
- CH: "Access to old revenue data is another problem as [it is] scattered and under the control of numerous State and Government agencies."
- CH: A 'National Culture Fund' (NCF) was established in 1996 to encourage private-public partnership in the restoration of heritage. Donors include the Indian Oil Corporation; Aga Khan Foundation; Oberoi Group of Hotels; Tata & Apeejay Groups.

Professional

- NH: The Indian Forest Service has some 2500 officers throughout the country (100 at the national level).
- NH: Training is carried out according to the National Forestry Action Programme (1999) & Wildlife Action Plan (1952, 2002).
- NH: 12 specialised training institutes are listed including the: (i) Wildlife Inst. of India; (ii) Indian Council of Forestry, Research & Education; (iii) Indira Gandhi Forestry Academy; (iv) Indian Inst. of Remote Sensing; (v) G.B. Pant Inst. of Himalayan Environment & Development.
- CH: Specialized studies have covered stereo-photographic studies, micro-earthquake and environmental impact assessments. A list of advanced training centres is attached.
- CH: Advanced technology for stone conservation, GIS, remote sensing, and the preservation of paintings can be transferred from other UNESCO state parties through international & regional co-operation.

New and improved services

- NH: The Indian Board of Wildlife has adopted the 'National Wildlife Action Plan' (2002-2016).
- NH: Numerous scientific and technical research projects include: (i) Mangrove Atlas of India; (ii) coral reef monitoring; (iii) in vitro propagation of medicinal plants; (iv) phyto-diversity inventorization by the Botanical Survey of India; (v) national vegetation mapping & thematic maps; and (vi) 'People's Biodiversity Register' of traditional knowledge.
- CH: The 'Science Branch' of the ASI has extended technical expertise to different (private) organisations to take up the chemical cleaning of cultural properties.
- CH: Master Plans and buffer zones are being elaborated by the respective state governments.

Issues to be addressed

- NH: Areas for improvement include: (i) reducing man-wildlife conflicts; (ii) assessment of threat status of endangered species; (iii) restoration of degraded habitats; (iv) poaching control; (v) community participation; (vi) conflict resolution; (vii) intelligence gathering; (viii) education; and (ix) ecotourism.
- CH: “Efforts are being made to augment and upgrade the existing basic amenities to the public.”
- CH: Areas for improvement include: (i) environment impact studies; (ii) training programmes for site managers; (iii) digital documentation; and (iv) youth education with electronic & print media.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- CH: On a request from the government of Cambodia, the Indian government participated in the conservation of the WH site of Angkor Wat.
- CH: India was also involved in the UNESCO campaign to salvage the Nubia monuments, and in the earlier restoration of the Bamiyan Buddhas in the 1970s.
- NH: Regional & global cooperation is sought for WH sites ‘in danger’ to ensure that these properties are taken out of danger in a fixed time frame.
- * International Assistance from the WHF as follows:

1983	\$3,200	Training, Stonework conservation
	\$13,331	Training, Ellora
1986	\$20,788	Technical, Konarak/Taj Mahal
1987	\$7,000	Training, Conservation principles
	\$1,419	Training, Purchase of materials
1988	\$2,000	Training, Conference on wetlands
1989	\$15,000	Training, Ecology workshop
	\$5,000	Training, Marine park management
1991	\$20,000	Training, Sub-regional
1994	\$10,000	Technical, Elephanta
1995	\$17,865	Emergency Taj Mahal
1996	\$30,000	Training Keoladeo
1997	\$90,000	Emergency Manas
	\$30,000	Training, Regional training centres
	\$50,000	Technical, Kaziranga
1998	\$90,000	Emergency, Manas
	\$10,000	Training, Elephanta
	\$20,000	Technical, Enhancing management
	\$5,000	Promotional, Elephanta
2001	\$20,000	Preparatory, Natural
	\$28,000	Training, Darjeeling
	\$16,362	Preparatory, Tentative List
2002	\$20,000	Training, Monitoring seminar
	\$17,370	Training, Hampi
- * Extra-budgetary funds mobilised by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage include:

1994-2003	\$500,000	Conservation, preservation of the Buddhist monuments at Sanchi & Satdhara (Japan)
1998-2003	\$158,200	Research, conservation training for Taj Mahal (Fondation Rhône-Poulenc)

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- NH: ‘Eco-clubs’ have been set up all over the country as “a non-formal proactive system to involve school children in conservation education”. ‘World Heritage Week’ is observed each November.
- NH: The MOEF has set up an environmental information system with 25 ‘ENVIS’ centres.
- CH: The motivation to enter WH nominations “emanates from the latent desire to bring out the universal value and hidden symbolic meaning of a given property to humanity at large.”
- CH: A new series of Guide Books has been published along with postage stamps & short films.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- NH: India has increased the number of protected areas from only 65 in the 1970s to 587 national parks and sanctuaries for wild flora & fauna in 2002. The periodic review of protected area coverage seeks to further ensure the coverage of a range of representative biomes.
- NH: Integrated landscape-level conservation will in the future address “regional planning connecting vital ecological corridors and preventing fragmentation of natural ecosystems.”
- NH: “Enormous benefits are foregone especially by the local people due to the establishment of protected areas in a developing country. Such opportunity costs of heritage sites must be met to maintain its effectiveness... [WH properties] should get priority in international funding.”
- CH: It is proposed to develop “a documentation centre exclusively dealing with the issues relating to WH sites. The Centre could act as a catalyst in integrating conservation, tourism, funding, evaluation of sites, and take requisite action to formulate site management... and develop [an] information database.”
- CH: As part of an “urban organism”, concerned municipal agencies should be made “accountable for acts of omission and commissions” arising in and around WH properties (including buffer zones).