

## SRI LANKA

### 1.1 Introduction

**Year of ratification** 1980

#### Organisation submitting the report

- Natural Heritage Section I:  
Forest Department  
'Sampathpaya', Battaramulla,
- Cultural Heritage Section I:  
Archaeological Survey Department (ASD)  
Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha,  
Colombo  
Sri Lanka
- Central Cultural Fund (CCF)  
212/1 Baudhaloka Mawatha,  
Colombo  
Sri Lanka

### 1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

#### The status of national inventories

- NH: A national inventory was prepared by the Forest Dept. in 1988.
- CH: 2002: 617 monuments & 93 archaeological reserves gazetted; 13,106 sites registered at state or local level.

#### The preparation of a Tentative List

- 1 site, revised in 2002
- CH: Plans are in place to organize a seminar to discuss the submission of a new Tentative List.
- NH: Along with uniqueness and rarity, "biodiversity, hydrology, cultural, historical, social and global importance" are considered for site nominations.

#### Nominations and the nomination process

- 1981 Sinharaja Forest Reserve (deferred)
- 1982 3 nominations (inscribed)  
(a) Sacred City of Anuradhapura  
(b) Ancient City of Polonnaruwa  
(c) Ancient City of Sigiriya
- 1989 Padhanagra Pirivena Complex at Ritigala (deferred)
- 1988 3 nominations (inscribed)  
(a) Sinharaja Forest Reserve  
(b) Sacred City of Kandy  
(c) Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications
- 1991 Golden Temple of Dambulla (inscribed)
- CH: The most important benefit of inscription was the extra protection sites received.

- NH: Scientific research in endemism & hydrology is seen as critical in the nomination process. The 'Peak Wilderness Sanctuary' is being developed.

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

#### Integration of heritage and planning

- NH: The 'National Heritage & Wilderness Act' (1988) has been applied to natural WH properties.
- NH: A 'National Steering Committee' has also been "appointed to coordinate activities among other institutions", including the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme.
- NH: A National Forest Policy was developed in 1995.
- CH: Where they affect WH properties, ASD & CCF participate in planning decisions alongside the Government Agent and District Secretary. A public meeting is also part of the planning process.
- CH: It is indicated that delays in the planning process could be reduced by greater involvement of local politicians, the clergy & general public.

#### Participation of local communities

- NH: The management plans for Sinharaja prepared in 1985 & 1994 have recommended benefit sharing and community participation (with 'Sinharaja Sumithuro') in conservation.
- CH: At present, local clergy may be involved in consultation meetings, local councils and owners are included when private property is involved, and local people may be employed.

#### Tourism Development

- NH: Ecotourism is allowed in the buffer & conservation support zones of Sinharaja, but not in the core zone. Every group must be accompanied by a guide trained & approved by the conservation office.
- CH: No information on tourism supplied.

#### Financial measures and budget allowance

- NH: The government allocates "a fair amount of funds" (some US\$ 10,500) specifically for WH sites, supplemented by a medium term grant for Sinharaja from Global Environment Facility of UNDP.
- NH: In 1991, the Forest Dept. proposed plans for a Trust Fund for Sinharaja which were not accepted by the government.
- CH: Annual budget for WH sites as part of the regular budget for culture. No figures supplied.
- CH: 75% of the income of the CCF is spent on heritage protection and related measures.

### Professional

- NH: 25 officers are responsible for Sinharaja. 95% of the Dept. have postgraduate qualifications from 4 different national universities mentioned.
- NH: The Sri Lanka Forestry Institute conducts a 2-year Diploma course & a 1-year Forestry Certificate Course for the field staff of the Forest Dept.
- CH: Approx. 200 professional staff is employed in heritage protection, conservation & presentation.
- CH: The Board of Governors of CCF is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes 6 cabinet ministers.
- CH: There are opportunities to study for first degrees and postgraduate diplomas in archaeology, architectural conservation, mural painting, artefact conservation, heritage management, museology & maritime archaeology.
- CH: Some personnel have obtained qualifications in Europe, Japan, India & Australia.

### New and improved services

- NH: Action has been taken to acquire both privately owned and other state blocks of land (i.e. such as areas belonging to the Land Reform Commission) within & adjacent to Sinharaja.
- NH: 'Vigilance Committees' have been formed on a village basis in the buffer zone of Sinharaja including villagers, Forest Dept. staff & other stakeholders.
- CH: Heritage Foundations have been established for Galle, Sigiriya & Kandy.
- CH: The Antiquities Ordinance was amended to increase its protective powers in 1998.
- CH: 11 specialised heritage conservation laboratories are mentioned.

### Issues to be addressed

- NH: Improvement is desirable in: (i) community participation; (ii) income-generating activities in the buffer zone; (iii) capacity-building of local bodies; and (iv) improving visitor facilities.
- CH: Needs outlined include: (i) advanced training and equipment for non-destructive archaeology, remote sensing & manuscript conservation; (ii) stricter legal regime to combat illegal demolitions, vandalism & theft; (iii) legislation permitting rapid acquisition of archaeological properties; (iv) increased public participation of local decision-makers in heritage protection; (v) consolidation of research findings into site management manuals; (vi) improved visitor information services.

## I.4 International co-operation and fund raising

### National and International Fund Raising

- \* International Assistance from the WHF as follows:
 

1985	\$33,342	Technical, (Anuradhapura)
1986	\$20,000	Training, (Sinharaja)
1987	\$15,000	Preparatory, (Sinharaja)

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|------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1988 | \$2,857  | Training, Conservation of wood        |
| 1989 | \$33,500 | Training, (Anuradhapura)              |
|      | \$9,171  | Training, Cave paintings conservation |
|      | \$5,000  | Technical, Ecological symposium       |
|      | \$25,500 | Technical, (Anuradhapura)             |
| 1998 | \$25,000 | Technical, (Kandy)                    |
|      | \$5,000  | Promotional, (Kandy)                  |
| 2001 | \$25,000 | Training, Monitoring seminar          |
- \* Extra-budgetary funds mobilised by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage include:
 

1981-1999	\$19,619	Conservation, preservation: Sacred City of Kandy (Voluntary contributions from the International Safeguarding Campaign)
1981	\$320,549	Conservation, research: Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka (UNDP/SRL)
1983	\$80,000	Restoration, equipment: Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka (Voluntary contributions from the International Safeguarding Campaign)
1991	\$230,000	Conservation, preservation: Sacred City of Kandy (Japan)
  - CH: Sri Lanka has collaborated with authorities in Zimbabwe, the Maldives, Mauritius & Afghanistan in heritage projects.
  - CH: Kandy is twinned with Chengde, China.

## I.5 Education, information and awareness-building

### Information and awareness measures

- NH: "Hotels, banks, media and the press" have been involved in raising awareness, training extension & rural welfare activities.
- NH: Video films, brochures, posters & books have been produced on Sinharaja. A 'Research Education & Extension Centre' (REEC) has also been set up.
- CH: CCF offers 5 free places to students of the region on the conservation course at University of Moratuwa.
- CH: Lectures, exhibitions & media campaigns.
- The UNESCO project 'Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion' has been adopted. The Forest Dept. has also incorporated relevant subject matter into the school syllabus.

## I.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

### Conclusions and proposed actions

- NH: Recognition of Sinharaja as a natural WH site was "greatly useful in solving boundary issues" and attracting international visitors. A further review of boundaries is proposed for 2003 with the assistance of the National Science Foundation & GEF grant.
- NH: It is proposed to reactivate the dormant National Steering Committee, to coordinate environmental activities with the Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources.

- NH: It is proposed to enact new legislation to “cover the loopholes [concerning] biopiracy and illegal access to genetic resources”.
- CH: Proposed future actions include: (i) strengthening legislative protection; (ii) revising the national inventory & Tentative List; (iii) improving information and tourism facilities; (iv) re-settlement of people and re-location of incompatible infrastructure; (v) a “cultural complex” to link performance and history with World Heritage; (vi) GIS for documentation and site management; (vii) establishing heritage foundations for Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura & Dambulla.
- CH: WHF support may be sought for enhancing inventories, training, technical equipment and information systems, and exchanges of expertise.