

NEPAL

Kathmandu Valley

II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1979

Organisation Responsible for the Report

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II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C iii, iv, vi

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows (new):
“The cultural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley, of outstanding universal value, is represented by seven groups of monuments and buildings which taken together as a multiple resource display the full array of historic and artistic achievement for which the Kathmandu Valley is world famous. The seven include the three Darbar Squares of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, the two Buddhist stupas of Swayabhu and Baudhanath, and the two Hindu temple complexes of Pashupati and Changu Narayan. The seven monument zones are not only architecturally rich, but form the setting for a vibrant and living intangible culture of artistic and craft activity and ritual practices. The zones form the background for the traditional way of life of the people of the Kathmandu Valley.”

“Illegal demolitions and inappropriate reconstruction with reinforced concrete has led to disruption to the scale and detail of the historic streets and, in some cases, damage to the setting of the principal monuments.”

Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of each of the 7 Monument Zones (MZs) are considered adequate.
- Heritage ‘conservation areas’ have been designated outside some of the MZs.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/ Integrity

Status of Authenticity/ Integrity

- “The authenticity and integrity of the site has been damaged by demolition and redevelopment of houses which the statutory authorities were unable to control (...) conservation projects for a number of private houses within the [Patan] Monument Zone should help to recover some of the losses of the 1990s”.
- It is noted that illegal demolitions and inappropriate reconstruction with reinforced concrete have led to “disruption to the scale and detail of the historic streets and, in some cases, damage to the setting of the principal monuments”.



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II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- Relevant laws include: (i) Ancient Monument Preservation Act (1956, 5th amendment 1996); (ii) Ancient Monument Preservation Regulations (1989); (iii) Guthi Sansthan Act (1966); (iv) Local Self Governance Act (1999); (v) construction guidelines for the prescribed monument zones.
- The renovated Ayaguthi Sattal, on the northern edge of the Patan Durbar Square will be re-inaugurated as a ‘Heritage Outreach & Information Centre’.

Present State of Conservation

- “In the last couple of years, the illegal demolition of houses within the Kathmandu Darbar Square MZ has not taken place.” Some private owners have volunteered to carry out the re-facing of their houses with traditional materials.
- The Pashupati Area Development Trust has “demolished 92 modern reinforced concrete houses” within the MZ, and significant improvements have been made to the water quality of the Bagmati river.
- The Bhaktapur Heritage Conservation Masterplan was completed by the Municipality with the support from the DoA in 2002.
- In Swoyambhu MZ, the façade of 2 private houses, 2 rest houses & 2 Viharas has been done with the collaboration of the house owners. The landslide problem on the site was stabilised with the support of UNESCO between 1983-84.

- In Baudhanath MZ, “only one monument is listed in the original nomination dossier... [which] does not include the private buildings which have been identified as worthy of preservation and which will be graded and gazetted.”
- In Changu Narayan MZ, two temples and several *patis* (rest houses) have been repaired since 1998. The Changu Narayan Area Conservation Plan identifies a tourism-related strategy.

Staffing and Training Needs

- The DoA WH Management Section has 5 staff, while the DoA Heritage Conservation Unit has 4 professional & 12 technical staff.
- Individual ‘Maintenance Offices’ and the Sub-Municipalities for the respective MZs also have some staff.

US\$52,000 Technical; (vii) 1996, US\$14,000 Training; (viii) 1997, US\$14,000 Training; US\$14,000 Training; US\$14,000 Training; US\$28,000 Technical, Traditional architecture; (ix) 1998, US\$19,800 Technical; US\$35,000 Technical; US\$15,000 Technical; US\$5,000 Promotional; (x) 1999, US\$20,000 Technical; US\$2,550 Technical.

Access to IT

- The DoA WH Management Section has 1 PC with Internet access.
- An ‘Urban Management Information System’ based on GIS & RDMS (using ArcView 8.1) has been established by the Kathmandu Valley Mapping Programme (KVMP) of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC).

Visitor Management

- No overall visitor statistics. The Patan Tourism Development Organisation, Baudha, Bhaktapur Municipality & KMC estimate that approx. 90-100,000 people visit the four MZs. 300,000 are estimated to visit Pashupati
- The Patan Museum is located in the restored Kashav Narayan Chowk. A number of projects have been converting traditional houses into tourist



Contemporary constructions in Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square

- The ‘Asia Urbs’ programme funded by the European Commission until January 2004 employs 16 staff.
- Staff need “training in monitoring and achieving compliance with the protective legislation”, as well as in keeping accurate records of the historic city.

Financial Situation

- The regular government allocation to the DOA in 2002 was US\$95,000 for the whole WH property.
- Major bilateral donors include the governments of Austria, Japan, Germany, Italy.
- Funding is considered sufficient for the major monuments, but inadequate for the “conservation and careful modernisation of private houses”.
- An increase in “the effectiveness of the Tourist Entry Charge, would be desirable.”
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1980, US\$13,000 Emergency; (ii) 1989, US\$30,000 Emergency; US\$20,000 Emergency; (iii) 1990, US\$10,554 Emergency; (iv) 1993, US\$16,700 Technical.; (v) 1994, US\$20,600 Emergency; US\$24,310 Emergency; (vi) 1995,

accommodation.

- The Bhaktapur MZ is reported to have “the capacity to accommodate significantly higher visitor numbers than at present.”

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Population growth
- Rapid economic development & social change
- Increasing pollution
- High earthquake risk

Counteractive Plans

- HM Government is providing subsidised timber & traditional bricks to private house owners.
- Assessment of the risk of earthquake damage to traditional buildings by the ‘Asia Urbs’ programme. Some traditional earthquake strengthening has been carried out (i.e. ‘Nepal Building Code’).
- “The operation of the Guthis [community trusts] has been enhanced by local empowerment and education in the value of the built heritage, enhancing their effectiveness as property owners.”

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- "In 1993, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Review Mission defined 16 points of concern. From 1994 annual monitoring reports were submitted to HMG to the WH Committee."
- "In 1998, a UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG joint mission made 55 recommendations and defined a time-bound action plan of corrective measures."
- Institutions involved in monitoring include the: (i) National High Level Monitoring Committee; (ii) DoA WH Management Division; (iii) DoA Heritage Conservation Unit; (iv) MZ-specific partners such as the Mayors of Lalitpur, Kathmandu & Bhaktapur Sub-Municipalities.

Monitoring Indicators

- No current indicators in place. Indicators under consideration by the 'Asia Urbs' programme include: (i) demolition permits; (ii) repair grants; (iii) number of buildings at risk; (iv) inventorying all monuments in 3 grades as a "baseline" (a 1998 recommendation); (v) property values.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- "The experience of managing historic sites in a rapidly changing urban environment would be of particular value to other State Parties, particularly in developing countries."
- "The improved handling of planning applications, involving both the DoA and the Sub-Metropolitan City, has made the [conservation] system more effective and responsive."
- "Now that the conservation of the major monuments is largely complete, attention has turned to the minor monuments and private houses." Mechanisms to direct financial support to owners of traditional buildings need to be enhanced.

*State of Conservation Reports

1993 Bureau, WHC-93/CONF.001/3 At its 16th session, the World Heritage Committee adopted the recommendations included in an ICOMOS report, based on the "7th International Wood Committee Symposium and Conference" and requested the Nepalese authorities to study these.

A technical review of all conservation projects carried out over the past 20 years is to be organised in 1993 in view of setting up preservation guidelines and assessing the status of the site boundaries. The Division of Physical Heritage of UNESCO is executing a US\$ 375, 000 - Japan Trust Fund Project aiming to establish scientific documentation of the historical

buildings in Patan Durbar Square. Furthermore, assistance is being sought from UNDP to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national and municipal agencies responsible for safeguarding monuments and historical urban quarters in the Valley.

1993 Committee, WHC-93/CONF.002/5 Following information concerning the alarming state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley, a joint WHC/ICOMOS global review mission is planned during the 3rd and 4th week of November 1993. The mission, accompanied by the Nepalese counterparts, will carry out the survey and study of the World Heritage Site. The following aspects will be considered: (1) Changes which have taken place and the reasons for these, special attention will be given to boundaries and their possible extension; (2) The environmental conditions (encroachment, rebuilding, traffic...) affecting the site as well as assessing existing control mechanisms and their effectiveness; (3) The current conservation practices; suggestions of conservation techniques guidelines appropriate to traditional Nepalese buildings, recommendations for any necessary training.

1994 Bureau, WHC-94/CONF.001/3b The joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission, undertaken in November 1993, submitted a summary report. (Cf. WHC-94/CONF.001/3bAdd.2 for specific site state of conservation reports) This mission aimed to (1) evaluate the current and past conservation activities (2) examine the state of conservation of the site (3) verify the original boundaries (4) assess the support capacities of the national and municipal authorities (5) evaluate the proposed amendments to the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1956.

The review mission defined sixteen areas in which significant improvements should be made. It also suggested increased international support, which could be obtained by the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and a permanent UNESCO presence at the site.

Since November 1993 the following actions have been taken: (1) March 1994, series of meetings at UNESCO Headquarters during the visit of the Nepalese National Commission for UNESCO. (2) UNESCO Mission undertaken in May 1994 to assist the Nepalese Authorities in drafting and suggesting modifications to the 4th Amendment of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act of 1956. (3) Organisation of a workshop in Kathmandu to strengthen local capacities regarding building technology and the use of appropriate restoration construction materials. (4) Approval of two emergency requests amounting to US\$ 44,910 to undertake restoration work in the Degu Taleju Mandir and Patuko Agamchhen in Patan Darbar Square.

1994 Bureau, WHC-94/CONF.001/3b A summary of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS review mission report was received during the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in December 1993. On the basis of the

urgent concerns outlined within the report, ICOMOS proposed that the Committee encourage the Government of Nepal to consider recommending inclusion of the Kathmandu Valley on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The report's supporting documentation was however not available for consultation at the time and the Government of Nepal and the Committee were therefore reluctant to accept this recommendation.

Summary of Review Mission Conclusions: The final review mission report, completed in May 1994, details many of the conservation difficulties facing the Kathmandu Valley: inadequate demolition and development control at national and municipal levels; erection of unauthorised, reinforced concrete high-rise structures in the monument zones; unauthorised demolition of monuments or historic residences within the inscribed zone; lack of technical and financial resources to address conservation needs adequately; loss of traditional skills and materials, frequently resulting in technically unsound repair work; inadequate

subsequent to the November 1993 UNESCO/ICOMOS mission findings, recommended an overall evaluation of the site aiming to redefine the monument zones. The mission also noted that the Hindu shrine of Pashupati, although included in the World Heritage site had never been gazetted as a protected monument area under Nepali law.

The Nepali National Commission for UNESCO (letter of 21 July 1994), reported the progress made by the authorities in responding to the 16-point recommendation of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission.

At the time of writing, a HMG Nepal/ICOMOS/UNESCO strategy meeting to prepare an assistance package to support the Nepali authorities was being planned for November 1994, immediately following the International Campaign Review Meeting.

The Committee notes the efforts being made by the Nepali authorities to rectify the damage caused to the Kathmandu Valley, requests UNESCO to support the Government of Nepal in strengthening the mechanism of co-ordination of all international conservation. The Committee also calls upon the Government of Nepal to take into consideration the recommendations made by the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in tackling uncontrolled development issues, especially demolition and construction permits and land use policy. The Committee requests UNESCO to assist the Nepali authorities in seeking international funding through various projects. The Committee discussed the advantages of the Kathmandu Valley being put on the List of World Heritage in Danger to draw international, priority attention and urged the Government of Nepal to reconsider this option.



Illegal elevation on a traditional building within Patan Monument Zone

funds to carry out needed repair and restoration projects; renewal of elements of religious complexes in inadequate materials and styles. The review mission report makes two primary recommendations: (1) Adjustment of the boundaries to correspond with areas of loss of significant integrity within some zones and/or to include more accurately structures of value. It should be noted that a recommendation to reduce the boundaries of some of the monument zones is a tacit de-listing of areas previously accepted for inclusion on the World Heritage List; (2) that the Kathmandu Valley be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger; a series of sixteen concerns to be addressed in order to secure removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger is identified.

1994 Committee, WHC-94/CONF.003/6 The Bureau at its 18th session, taking into account the debate

1995 Bureau, WHC-95/CONF.201/4 In December 1994, the Committee approved a technical co-operation request under the World Heritage Fund to finance the 6 month mission of an international technical adviser to Kathmandu, scheduled for August 1995, to implement the recommendations made by the November 1993 UNESCO/ICOMOS, to assist the authorities in the preparation of a package of projects for international funding and to establish a Development control unit within the Department of Archaeology to prevent further encroachment to the site. On 23 February 1995, the World Heritage Centre officially transmitted its concern to the Government of Nepal regarding the demolition of Joshi Agamchen, Darbar Square. The Director-General of the DoA informed the Centre (letter of 14 March 1995) of its intervention with the owner, who is a private trust, to ensure that the conservation works meet international standards of conservation practice.

State of Conservation of the World Heritage Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region

The continued demolition of historic buildings located within the suggested expansion, revised boundary zone, which the Government accepted, has been reported. The new gazette of the revised boundary has not yet been issued.

The Bureau notes with concern, reports on the continued demolition of and alterations to historic buildings within protected zones and in areas pending official inclusion, the Bureau requests the urgent publication of the Government gazette indicating the new boundaries of the protected areas and the early establishment of the Inter-ministerial Task Force to implement the actions agreed upon by the Government to strengthen the protection of the site. The Bureau requests the Inter-ministerial Task Force and the international technical adviser to report to the 19th of the Committee.

1995 Committee, WHC-95/CONF.203/5 The technical co-operation grant approved by the Committee at its 18th session, enabled the five-month deployment, in October 1995, of an International Technical Adviser (ITA) to assist the authorities in the preparation of project proposals for international funding and to establish a development control unit within the DoA. Three national professionals will be trained as development control officers by the ITA and their subsidies for 12 months will be provided for via the technical cooperation grant on the understanding that they will be subsequently integrated as DoA staff. Under the on-going UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund project, the hand and photogrammetric recording of Patan Durbar Square was completed in June 1995 and transferred to the DoA for its documentation unit currently being established under the same project. Five-month training of three documentalists will be carried out from the systematic monitoring budget allocated to the Centre for 1995.

The official gazette of the revised boundaries of the monuments zones has not yet been issued despite repeated indication by the DoA of its imminent publication.

The report requested by the Bureau at its 19th session has not reached the Secretariat at the time of writing.

The Committee reiterates the request to HMG of Nepal to provide a report on the progress in the implementation of the November 1993 UNESCO/ICOMOS recommendations.

1996 Ext Bureau, WHC-96/CONF.203/3 The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee and recommends the Committee to adopt

the following: "The Committee congratulates HMG of Nepal for the tangible proof of its commitment to the World Heritage Convention and expresses its hope that efforts will be continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Department of Archaeology and the concerned municipal authorities to protect and develop this World Heritage Site by officially adopting and publicising regulations on building control and conservation practice.



Traditional Palace at Bhaktapur Darbar Square

The Committee appeals to the national and international donor communities to finance the projects developed by the local authorities for the safeguarding of the site which are contained in the compendium of project proposals prepared with the support of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division and the World Heritage Centre."

1996 Committee, WHC-96/CONF.201/7B As requested by the Director General of Archaeology of Nepal, the Committee decided to defer its decision to place of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

His Majesty's Government subsequently accepted to give priority attention to the sixteen points of concern raised by the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to improve the state of conservation of this site.

In 1994, the 18th session of the World Heritage Committee received a Monitoring Report prepared by the DoA and the Committee approved funds to enable the deployment of a UNESCO ITA to assist the Nepalese authorities. The training has resulted in enhancing the Department's capacities in documenting, monitoring and advising on the control of demolition, conservation and in the design of new buildings in the World Heritage site, and will serve to enforce the 5th amendment to the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, enacted in February 1996 by Parliament. The continued employment of the trained personnel of the

Development Control Unit after the exhaustion of international funds remains a matter of concern, taking into account the provision of new posts within the Department.

The DoA has also been actively implementing other measures to improve the management of the Site; inconsistencies in the boundaries of the site's seven Monument Zones are in the process of being rectified and the boundaries will be defined by stone markers. New norms for conservation practice are being defined, particularly the importance of repair in situ rather than by demolition, rebuilding and the revival of traditional building techniques, coupled with restrictions on the use of incompatible new materials.

To emphasise the increased importance being placed on the preservation of the World Heritage Site as a whole, rather than on individual monuments, the DoA and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre are jointly hosting an information meeting on safeguarding and development needs of the Kathmandu Valley on 9 October 1996. Some nineteen project proposals focused on community participation, sustainable re-use of historic buildings and the economic revival of historic city centres will be presented for national and

donor communities to finance safeguarding projects developed by the local authorities which are contained in the compendium of project proposals prepared with the support of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division and the World Heritage Centre.

1997 Bureau, WHC-97/CONF.204/2B A state of conservation report prepared by the Department of Archaeology (DoA) of Nepal was made available to the Committee during its 20th session. Since its submission, boundaries of the Monument Zones of Bhaktapur and Patan have been redefined and gazetted. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture has taken the decision that the Development Control Unit of the DoA be permanent as from 15 July 1997. The DoA is planning to prepare a guideline for private homeowners within the protected areas to explain the legal obligations they must follow.

The traditional architectural structures on the circular street surrounding the Bauddha Stupa within its MZ are being demolished and new structures are being constructed resulting in a loss of integrity, which is, furthermore, being threatened by construction plans of a new Buddhist temple which do not follow DoA regulations. The DoA has continued discussions with local residents to control development.

The Bureau takes note of the state of conservation report provided by HMG of Nepal and expressed its appreciation for the progress made towards fulfilling the sixteen recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission. In view of the state of conservation information regarding the Bauddhanath MZ, the Bureau requests HMG of Nepal to ensure the maintenance of the integrity of the Bauddhanath setting by implementing development control by the DoA. Finally, it requests the concerned authorities to keep the

Committee informed of any progress made in further fulfilling the 1993 recommendations.

1997 Ext Bureau , WHC-97/CONF.207/2 A draft report was submitted to the Secretariat by HMG of Nepal in September 1997. The content is summarised in Information Document WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.14, combined with additional information from the UNESCO ITA, who conducted a mission to the site in September

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Swayambunath Monument Zone. The Prattapur Shrine was recently damaged by a fire.

international donor support.

The Committee congratulates HMG of Nepal for the tangible proof of its commitment to the World Heritage Convention and expresses its hope that efforts will be continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the DoA and the concerned municipal authorities to protect and develop this World Heritage Site by officially adopting and publicising regulations on building control and conservation practice. The Committee appeals to the national and international

1997 (within the framework of the preparatory assistance for the nomination of Kokhana as an additional monument zone of the Kathmandu Valley site). The full report on the state of conservation of the site, to be submitted by HMG of Nepal, will be made available to the Bureau and the Committee.

The Bureau transmits the information presented in Document WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.4 to the Committee for examination, and recommends the following for adoption: "The Committee takes note of the information provided by HMG of Nepal and the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the 16 point recommendation of the 1993 UNESCO/ICOMOS Review Mission. The Committee expresses appreciation to HMG of Nepal in establishing the Development Control Unit and in its efforts to ensure enhanced management of the Kathmandu Valley site as well as in mobilising international assistance. The Committee takes note of the special efforts made by the Municipalities of Bhaktapur and Patan in safeguarding the monument zones under their authority.

However, in view of the continued deterioration of the World Heritage values in the Bauddhanath and Kathmandu monument zones, the Committee requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with ICOMOS and HMG of Nepal, to study the feasibility of deleting selected areas within some monument zones. This review should take into consideration the intention of HMG to nominate Kokhana as an additional MZ.

The Committee authorises the approval of up to US\$ 35,000, from the World Heritage Fund technical co-operation budget for a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG of Nepal team to conduct a thorough feasibility study and to elaborate a programme for corrective measures in accordance with paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines.

Furthermore, the Committee requests HMG of Nepal to submit a report to the Secretariat for presentation to the Bureau, at its 22nd session, on the progress made with the on-going or new international assistance projects, and on further progress in implementing the sixteen-point recommendation.

Based upon the information from the feasibility study, the report from HMG, and recommendations from the Bureau, the Committee may wish to consider including this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

1998 Bureau, WHC-98/CONF.201/3B A UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG of Nepal Joint Mission was undertaken in March/April 1998, to report on the state of conservation of the seven Monument Zones of the World Heritage Site and to elaborate a programme of corrective measures. A full state of conservation report will be submitted by HMG of Nepal before the 22nd extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee. A programme of corrective measures with fixed deadlines for enhanced management of the seven Monument Zones is being finalised.

The Bureau expresses concern over the continued demolition of traditional buildings of architectural value and illegal new development within the Kathmandu Valley, despite the building control efforts made by HMG of Nepal and the local authorities. It requests that the Report of the Joint Mission be submitted to its members well in advance of the 22nd extraordinary session to enable a careful examination of the progress made in building control and the programme of corrective measures. On the basis of this examination, the Bureau will then formulate a conclusive recommendation to enable the Committee to decide whether or not to inscribe this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to consider actions it may wish to take in regard to the programme of corrective measures, as well as on the pending nomination submitted by the State Party to inscribe Kokhana as an additional Monument Zone of the site.

1998 Ext Bureau, WHC-98/CONF.202/4 A Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG of Nepal Mission (hereafter referred to as Joint Mission) was organised in March/April 1998, which resulted with the adoption by HMG of Nepal of 55 Recommendations of the Joint Mission and a Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures. The Joint Mission report, recommendations, and the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures are presented in Information Document WHC-98/CONF.202/INF.6.

The Bureau, after examining this document, transmits the above report to the Committee for examination and recommends the following for adoption: "The Committee examined the findings and results of the Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG of Nepal Mission. The Committee expresses appreciation to HMG of Nepal for its efforts in strengthening the management of the Kathmandu Valley site as well as in mobilising international assistance from the World Heritage Fund and other sources. However, in view of the increased deterioration of the World Heritage values, affecting the integrity and inherent characteristics of the site, the Committee decides to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee furthermore recommends that HMG of Nepal take appropriate measures to ensure that adequate protection and management are put into place at Kokhana before it is nominated as an additional MZ to the Kathmandu Valley site.

In taking this decision, the Committee encourages HMG of Nepal to continue implementing the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for Enhanced Management of the site, as proposed by the Joint Mission and adopted by HMG of Nepal in July 1998. Furthermore, following paragraph 87 of the Operational Guidelines, the Committee recommends that HMG of Nepal requests further international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for putting into place necessary and adequate building control measures."



Restoration of a typical Kathmandu house using traditional materials and methods

1998 Committee, WHC-98/CONF.203/8 rev The Bureau examined the findings and the 55 recommendations of the Joint Mission as well as the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures adopted by HMG of Nepal, presented in Information Document WHC-98/CONF.202/INF.6.

The Bureau, while noting concern over the gravity of the situation, recognised that HMG of Nepal had made considerable efforts in implementing ten out of twelve actions within the Action Plan, with deadlines of 30 November 1998. Furthermore, the Bureau members and observer State Parties remarked on the positive actions taken by HMG of Nepal in the past five months to enhance management. It was noted that the results of the Joint Mission and the possibility of the site's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger had encouraged the authorities concerned to take concrete actions to implement the 16-point recommendation of the 1993 Mission. Therefore, the Bureau concluded that the positive momentum achieved should not be undermined by immediate inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. ICOMOS supported this decision after stating that it had strongly recommended inscription of this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 and 1993.

The Observer of HMG of Nepal, representing the Honourable Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, expressed appreciation to the Bureau for its understanding of the difficulties being encountered by HMG of Nepal in the context of rapid urban development. He underlined the very positive developments which had taken place since July 1998, especially the creation of the inter-ministerial Heritage Conservation Unit within the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, and the participation of local municipalities and communities, as well as NGOs in the conservation process. The Observer assured the Bureau, that within the next 6 months, the threats on the Kathmandu Valley site would be seriously addressed.

The Bureau decided to defer the inscription of the Kathmandu Valley on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 23rd session in June 1999. It decided to transmit the Joint Mission report to the Committee for examination, and to recommend the following for adoption: "The Committee examines the findings and results of the Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG of Nepal Mission, the 55 recommendations and Time-Bound Action Plan adopted by HMG of Nepal. The Committee commends HMG of Nepal for its efforts in strengthening the management of the Kathmandu Valley site with the creation of the Heritage Conservation Unit. The Committee takes note of the special efforts made by the local authorities to raise awareness amongst the private home owners to prevent further illegal demolition and inappropriate new constructions, which destroys the essential historical urban fabric of the Kathmandu Valley site.

The Committee decides to defer the inscription of the Kathmandu Valley site on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its 23rd session. However, the Committee requests HMG of Nepal to continue implementing the 55 recommendations of the Joint Mission and to respect the deadlines of the Time-Bound Action Plan. In addition, the Committee recommends that HMG of Nepal adopt the three additional ICOMOS recommendations presented in Annex 1 of Chapter 12 of the Joint Mission report. Moreover, the Committee requests HMG of Nepal to submit a report on the progress made in implementing the 55 recommendations before 15/04/1999 for examination by the 23rd session of the Bureau in June 1999. Finally, the Committee requests HMG of Nepal to take measures to ensure that adequate protection and management are put into place at Kokhana, prior to its nomination as an additional MZ to the Kathmandu Valley site."

1999 Bureau, WHC-99/CONF.204/5 HMG of Nepal submitted (13 April 1999) a progress report on the implementation of the 55 recommendations of the Joint Mission to the World Heritage Centre (Information Document WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.12). HMG of Nepal has completed 8 out of 11 Time-Bound Actions, which were to be completed before 30/11/1998.

However, important actions have not been completed, such as Actions 2 and 7, which relate to the approval of the Ancient Monument Preservation Rules, including the classification of monuments into international, national and local importance. The delay in the establishment of the Rules, originally expected to have been approved by the Cabinet by 30/06/1998, is of serious concern, as they are essential tools for the relevant authorities in implementing the Ancient

Monuments Preservation Act. They will also enable a Monuments Conservation Fund to be established. Approval of the Master Plan of Baudhanath MZ (Action 8) is still pending although the original date of implementation was 30/11/1998.

In view of the serious concern expressed by the Committee at its 21st session concerning alarming and blatant building violations surrounding the Baudhanath stupa, a feasibility study for correcting illegal buildings at Baudhanath MZ was being undertaken by HMG of Nepal, following the detailed recommendations of ICOMOS during the Joint Mission. Although a preliminary progress report was submitted by HMG of Nepal in June 1998, no further information has been presented concerning the technical and financial feasibility for correcting the illegal buildings.

The Bureau examined the progress report submitted by HMG of Nepal in implementing the 55 recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG of Nepal Mission and the report of the Secretariat. The Bureau requests HMG of Nepal to continue implementing the 55 recommendations of the Joint Mission and urges HMG of Nepal to respect the deadlines for the implementation of the Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures, especially in relation to the establishment of the essential Ancient Monuments Preservation Rules.

The Bureau requests HMG of Nepal to report on the progress made in enforcing existing building regulations at Baudhanath MZ, on the technical and financial plan for correcting the illegal buildings immediately surrounding the stupa, and on the further progress made in implementing the 55 recommendations of ICOMOS suggested during the Joint Mission, before 15 September 1999 for examination by the 23rd extraordinary session of the Bureau in November 1999.

1999 Committee, WHC-99/CONF.209/14 A World Heritage Centre staff, during a Mission to the Kathmandu Valley in October 1999, noted that since the 1998 Joint Mission historic buildings in the protected areas, some of which ICOMOS had recommended for retention and repair during this same mission, had been demolished and that new concrete constructions were underway. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre staff, with the assistance of UNESCO

Kathmandu office experts, found that demolition and reconstruction permits had been issued by the DoA, despite the possibility of in situ repair. Furthermore, other non conform constructions were observed such as floor additions on historic buildings ; construction of illegal cantilevers or re-facing of stores.

The Joshi Agmacche, Darbar Square, had been entirely demolished and was being replaced by a new construction with reinforced concrete and newly carved wooden pillars, while the mission witnessed discarded authentic pillars, which could have been re-used. In view of the serious threats, both ascertained and potential, facing the site, a report by an independent international expert from ICOMOS and member of the 1998 Joint Mission, is currently under preparation. The



Chaotic and unregulated urban development marring the visual impact of the Kathmandu Valley

report of this mission, which will summarize the degree of serious deterioration of materials, structure, ornamental features, architectural coherence, and the essential settings of the protected MZs, as well as an evaluation of the degree of historical authenticity still remaining within site, will be presented to the Bureau at its 23rd extraordinary session for examination.

The attention of the Bureau is drawn to the fact that the cases of numerous demolitions and inappropriate reconstructions reported to the Bureau and Committee at almost each session since 1993, whether carried out with or without the permission of the DoA, are indications of the very serious degree of uncontrolled change and deterioration caused to the MZs of the site.

The Bureau may wish to examine the reports presented by HMG of Nepal, the World Heritage Centre and the independent expert, and any further information

available at the time of the 23rd extraordinary session, and take a decision thereupon.

2000 Bureau, WHC-2000/CONF.202/5 The World Heritage Centre has made arrangements for a High Level Mission to take place in September 2000 by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, two eminent international experts, and a representative of the World Heritage Centre.

A preparatory mission was undertaken by a World Heritage Centre staff to Kathmandu Valley in April 2000 in view of this High Level Mission. The staff noted continued concern that the public rest-house in Patan Darbar Square MZ, which had been recognized by ICOMOS in 1998 as being in good condition, had illegally been dismantled without the approval of the DoA in September 1999 and had been reconstructed using new building material despite the possibility of in situ repair.

The Bureau requests HMG of Nepal to continue making all possible efforts to protect the remaining authentic historic urban fabric within the Kathmandu Valley. The Bureau requests the Secretariat and the advisory bodies to continue assisting the State Party as appropriate and to strengthen its capacity in controlling development, retaining historic buildings in situ, and in correcting illegal construction and alteration of historic buildings within the Kathmandu Valley. The Bureau requests the World Heritage Centre to ensure adequate preparation of the High Level Mission scheduled for September 2000 and to report on the results to the 24th session of the Committee.

2000 Committee, WHC-2000/CONF.204/10 The High Level Mission to Kathmandu Valley, composed of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, a Vice President of the World Heritage Committee also representing ICOMOS, an eminent international expert on Kathmandu Valley and President of the International Safeguarding Campaign for Kathmandu Valley, a former Minister of Housing of the Government of France, the Director of the World Heritage Centre and the Centre staff, was undertaken between 24-29 September 2000. The findings and results of this mission will be reported to the Bureau at its 24th extraordinary session.

Taking into consideration the numerous deferrals of the decision by the World Heritage Committee to inscribe Kathmandu Valley on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and upon examination of the findings of the High Level Mission, (24-29/09/2000), the Bureau recommends a decision to be taken by the World Heritage Committee.

2001 Committee, WHC-2001/CONF.208/10 At the time of the preparation of this working document, no new information had been received by the Centre. The Bureau will examine information that will be provided at the time of its session and take the appropriate decision thereupon.