

## INDIA

### Agra Fort

#### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1983

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

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#### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C iii

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:  
"It is one of the most important and robustly built strongholds of the Mughal Period, embellished with number of richly decorated buildings encompassing the imposing Mughal style of art and architecture. The Fort, semi-circular on plan and surrounded by 70 feet high double rampart and moat successfully withstood the onslaught of time, nature and men, and still survive in fairly good condition of preservation."
- The report proposes an extension to the property.

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- The demarcation line and buffer zone are adequate.
- No revision needed to the site boundaries.

#### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- Values and authenticity/integrity well preserved.
- Few changes to the authenticity/integrity, tourism pressure and visitor facilitation has necessitated some alteration in the originality (integrity) of the property. All of these interventions and alterations are add-ons.



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#### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The ASI needs co-operation from local authorities to enforce laws, in order for them to be properly implemented.
- Act of 1958, amended in 1992 is enough for the protection.
- Overall management made at the local and national levels. The above arrangements are considered sufficient.
- Management plan: the X<sup>th</sup> five year plan, drawn-up in 2002, foresees such arrangements.
- So as to preserve the values in the future, a site management plan is under preparation by the ASI, ADA & TCPO.

#### Present State of Conservation

- Successive major intervention since 1997.
- Changes since inscription: At present, the statement of conservation is satisfactory. However some "cosmetic conservations" are required in many places.

#### Staffing and Training Needs

- Staff total number: 70 Staff. Not sufficient to monitor the site. It is necessary to increase the personnel and install monitoring and control of visitors.
- The staff need training in computer, visitor management, study and preparation of lime and GIS.

#### Financial Situation

- Sources of funds from Central Government.
- Funding is not sufficient. No details provided.
- \* International Assistance from WHF, UNESCO, and various sources: none.

#### Access to IT

- No computers, no email or Internet access.
- No use of GIS.

## Visitor Management

- 2001-2002, 1,090,722 visitors and US\$ 218,710 of income.
- Various facilities: 2 sets of toilet blocks, drinking water point, ASI publication counter.
- Needed facilities: interpretation orientation, information kiosk, toilet blocks, water points, ramps for physically challenged visitors, rest areas, publication counters, library and research centre, etc.
- Plan for public use: no existing plan.
- Communication WH values through: cultural days, national days, publications and website.
- Educational programmes: no such programmes exist. However, students are occasionally invited and get involved in various creative or educational activities to create a feeling of relatedness with the monument.
- Role of the inscription into the List of World Heritage: place of special importance, increased visitors, and researchers. Brings the property under various types of pressure.

*"Development pressure: number of population, vehicles, tourism based economy, poor and inadequate infrastructure, rise in hotels, rise of small scale industries."*

## Monitoring Indicators

- Regular monitoring systems exist to survey the structure and ambience, with documented reports (photos) and archives.
- Cracks monitored with tell-tale glasses. So far, no formal key-indicator have been fixed.
- For Air quality, through a Central Pollution Control Board.

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Management and factors affecting property: legal arrangements could be effective if properly implemented; repairs carried-out, manpower increase necessary to monitor and control visitors and a visitor management plan is badly needed; staff training needed; visitor facilities needed, visitor management plan, under preparation.

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- Development pressure: population, vehicles, tourism based economy, poor and/or inadequate infrastructure, increase of hotel facilities, increase of small scale industries.
- Environmental pressures: no mention.
- Natural disasters and preparedness: no mention.
- Tourist/visitor pressures: floors and approachable portions of the monument bear the consequences of tourist inflow. Vandalism.
- Inhabitants in buffer zone: no mention.

### Counteractive Plans

- No emergency plan.
- Actions: ASI liaisons with local administration for help in difficult situations.
- Improvements needed: sophisticated systems for screening visitors and to survey crowd movements.
- Impacts of factors: increasing.
- Measures adopted or planned: development of green belts, creation of a Heritage zone bringing Agra Fort and Taj Mahal as part of the "Taj Ecocity".

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- A monitoring system in place.
- Partners: no partners involved at present.
- Foreseen improvements: establishment of some formal key indicators and use of modern gadgetry.

### \* State of Conservation Reports

1997 Committee, WHC-97/CONF.208//8BRev Serious surrounding air pollution deteriorated the white marble, stone inlays and sandstone of the three sites. The ASI and Government have systematically cleaned the surfaces, replaced deteriorated panels, and taken measures to reduce air pollution by imposing restrictions on industries. The planned construction of a new industrial complex was recently prevented. However, a comprehensive assessment of the origin and impact of pollution is necessary. A French private enterprise will provide US\$ 236,735, to fund a three-year research project for the conservation of the Taj Mahal and monuments at Agra Fort and establish a conservation laboratory in Agra Fort. This will fund UNESCO participation in the TA-2474, funded by the Asian Development Bank.

"The Bureau took note of this information and requested the Indian authorities concerned to keep the Secretariat informed on the progress of the research project, the establishment of the conservation laboratory, and of the TA-2474".