

PAKISTAN

Archaeological Remains at Moenjodaro



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II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1980

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Archaeological Museum Moenjodaro
Department of Archaeology & Museums
Government of Pakistan
Moenjodaro
District of Lakarna, Sindh
Pakistan

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C ii, iii

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:
The archaeological remains of Moenjodaro are located on the left bank of the Indus River about 510 km north east of Karachi, and 32 km from Larkana District, in the Province of Sindh. They represent the metropolis of the Indus Civilisation, which is the third great ancient civilisation in human history. This great civilisation flourished between 2500-1500 BC in the Indus Valley. The discovery of Moenjodaro in 1922 unveiled an amazing story of the customs, art, religion and administrative abilities of its inhabitants and the creators of this civilisation. The well-planned city, built mostly of baked brick, with a public bath, college of priests, elaborate drainage system, soak-pits for disposal of sewage, and a large granary bears testimony that it was a metropolis of great importance, enjoying a well organised civic, economic, social and cultural system. How this great metropolis of Indus civilisation (and another at Harappa in Sahiwal District) came to its end is still an enigma. The collapse and ultimate disappearance of this great civilisation has been attributed to many factors.

The citadel area contains administrative and religious buildings, while the low mound, or the lower city, represents residential quarters, shopping areas and other important buildings. Each area has been given a name derived from the name of the principal excavator who worked in that area.

Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The WH values of the property are considered to have been maintained.
- No changes to its authenticity/integrity are considered to have occurred or are foreseen.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The Director of the Southern Circle of Archaeology, Dept of Archaeology & Museums, based in Hyderabad, is responsible for its management.
- The property's Management Plan describes the system of administration of the site.
- The following laws and rules apply to the site: (i) Antiquities Act, 1975; (ii) Excavation & Exploration Rules, 1978; (iii) Admission of the Public into Immovable Antiquities Rules, 1982; (iv) Cinematographical Filming Rules, 1980; (v) Dealing in Antiquities Rules, 1989; (vi) Immovable Antiquities (mining, quarrying and blasting in restricted areas) Rules, 1979; (vii) Export of Antiquities Rules, 1979; (viii) Conservation Manual of Sir John Marshall, c 1930.
- "The existing Antiquities Act of 1975 has some flaws which are being removed. The proposed amendments will certainly make the law strong enough to deal with the violation of laws concerning protection of cultural heritage".



Map of Archaeological Remains at Moenjodaro

Present State of Conservation

- The Master Plan adopted in 1972 was implemented by the Authority for the Preservation of Moenjodaro over the period 1979-97 at a cost of US\$23.5 million. The principal works were: (i) Construction of spurs and armoring on the right bank of the Indus River; (ii) Installation of tube wells and drains around the site, and construction of pumping station; (iii) Conservation of structural remains; (iv) Tourism and landscaping elements of the Master Plan await implementation in the future.

Staffing and Training Needs

- The site is staffed by curators, an archaeological engineer, clerk and site attendants. Staffing levels are viewed as inadequate and the Dept. is seeking to obtain more staff.
- Training needs are identified in the fields of brick conservation, chemical treatment, landscaping and museum curatorship.

Financial Situation

- Funding for the site comes from the annual Regular Budget of the Ministry of Culture and other Government programmes.
- Funding is recognised as inadequate.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1982, US\$31,982 Technical Assistance; (ii) 1983, US\$7,078 Training Assistance in support of the Water & Soil Investigation Laboratory.

Access to IT

- There is no access to IT at the property.

Visitor Management

- The site had 50,614 visitors in 2001 (46,720 Adults, 3,076 Students, Children and Soldiers, and 818 Foreign Tourists).
- Basic shop, refreshment and toilet facilities are available on site, but the need for improved visitor information facilities has been identified.
- The need for a Visitor Management Plan is recognised.
- An information booklet is available at the site, but there is no education programme.
- Inscription on the World Heritage List is seen as a major factor affecting the number of visitors to the site.

- Four areas for improvement are identified: (i) Establishment of an advisory expert committee; (ii) Re-assessment of the Groundwater Control Scheme; (iii) Tourism Development; (iv) Scientific Research Studies.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- The Ministry of Culture's Planning Section monitors projects.
- The Science and Technological Universities of Pakistan, Soil Investigation Laboratory Lahore, the Geological Survey of Pakistan, Environmental Dept. and others have been involved in monitoring exercises.
- The Dept. provides regular site monitoring according to Sir John Marshall's Conservation Manual.

Monitoring Indicators

- No indicators have been identified.
- Acquisition of photographic equipment for use by the Water and Soil Investigation Laboratory at Moenjodaro is identified as the key to developing monitoring indicators.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- "The present management plan is not sufficient to look after the monument properly. It needs to be strengthened on scientific and modern approaches/methods and international standards. Many factors which are affecting the property need immediate measures such as: (i) Salt action; (ii) Moisture infiltration; (iii) Rainfall; (iv) Structural distress resulting from thermal stress, poor drainage, material decay and visitor behaviour."
- A comprehensive plan for conservation of Moenjodaro has been prepared for implementation in 2003-2004.
- Both financial and technical assistance is required from the World Heritage Fund.

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Aerial view of Moenjodaro Archaeological Remains

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Salt action,
- Moisture infiltration,
- Rainfall,
- Structural distress resulting from thermal stress,
- Poor drainage,
- Material decay,
- Visitor behaviour.

Counteractive Plans

- There is an acknowledged need for an emergency or risk preparedness plan.
- After the completion of the Master Plan works in 1997 a National Fund for Moenjodaro was set up by the Government to continue preservation work.

* State of Conservation Reports

1991 SC91/CONF.002/3. Noted the need to continue work to improve flood protection and lower groundwater levels. The focus should then turn to conservation of the remains, presentation to the public, and improved visitor management. A Plan was called for that would balance archaeological and tourism considerations.

1995 WHC-95/CONF.201/4. The Bureau requested UNESCO to strengthen its support to the Pakistan authorities in advance of the planned closure of the International Safeguarding Campaign in 1997. The suggested appointment of an international expert for the duration of the Campaign was to be reviewed and funding sought if appropriate.

1995 Frank Preusser & Associates Inc prepared a report for the World Heritage Centre. It concluded that: (i) Methods for stabilization of structural remains need to be improved; (ii) Methods for preservation of mud brick remains need to be developed; (iii) Site drainage needs to be improved; (iv) A planting scheme to prevent site erosion needs to be implemented. (v) Boundaries of the property need to be enforced against agricultural development; (vi) Tourist facilities and guidelines for visitor control need to be developed; (vii) Co-ordination between different institutions needs to be improved

1997 WHC-97/CONF.207/2, WHC-97/CONF.208/8Brev. The closure of the International Safeguarding Campaign was noted, as was the recommendation that the Government establish an administrative structure to ensure the sustainability of the results of the International Campaign.