

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

### 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).