

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 Bauddhaloka 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.

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

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)

- 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.