



Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity  
Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism



Vat Phou-Champasak  
World Heritage Site Office

## Action plan 2011-2015

*Legend:*      *Text in bold:*      *This document is based on the original structure of the first plan. The new tasks are printed in bold. They are issued from WHSO and Local Heritage Committee, or from Nishimura's report – 2011 as well as from UNESCO's comments on the previous reviewed project (2014, April 18<sup>th</sup>).*

*H, M, L*

*Term schedule: S=short term, M=medium, L=long term*

*Table I: Coordination, management, capacity development and resources*

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Term</i>
I.A. Establish appropriate coordination arrangements based on National Heritage Protection Committee and Champasak Provincial Heritage Protection Committee	I.A. Incorporate international regulations on World Heritage into the law of the Lao PDR. Enforce the different laws, regulations and ordinances relating to the WHS	I.A. Draw up decrees to enforce the Heritage Law in order to create a legal status for preventive archaeology, inventory and heritage protection regime	L
	<b>II.B. Reinforce the effectiveness of the coordination between Champasak District Heritage Committee, Champasak Provincial Heritage Committee, and the National Heritage Committee</b>	II.B. Hold meetings at each level regularly (once a year minimum) and strengthen reporting and coordination process	L
I.B. Establish an effective World Heritage Site Office around the present site office	I.B1. Appoint <b>the qualifications</b> of the WHS Office	I.B1. Upgrade the legal status of the WHSO to make effective its official qualifications and interministerial assignments	L
	<b>I.B2. It is critical for the Champasak World Heritage to have several trained Lao staff members who specialize in the field of cultural resource management. (Nishimura, 2011)</b>	I.B2-1. Provide assistance in the field of management of cultural issues for the WHSO board of directors II. B2-2. Enlarge staff recruitment to develop interministerial and cultural skills	L L
	I.B3. Agree appropriate staff structure for WHS Office to cover all its roles, and appoint suitable staff to these jobs.	I.B3. Implement a specific team to take into account heritage, preventive archaeology and landscape through urban planning procedures and building control processes	M
	I.B4. Create an effective record system for the World Heritage Site as a basis for its effective future management	I.B4. Develop training to improve archiving and tracing system	L
	I.B5. Define clear job descriptions and roles for all staff of WHS Office		I.B5-1. Review the WHSO assignments to take into account the work sharing with the private concessionary company
I.B5-2. Update the organisation chart to include the new assignments and qualifications			S
I.C. Ensure that staff of the WHS Office and others involved with the WHS have appropriate training	I.C1. Provide appropriate training courses for all staff	I.C1-1. Set up training for BHIA, CHIA, CLIA, with UNESCO.	M
		I.C1-2. Set up training in Preventive Archaeology	M
I.C1-3. Set up training in the field of management		M	
I.C1-4. Improve foreign languages skills for the staff		M	
I.C1-5. Renew the previous trainings to support learning retention		M	
I.C2. Ensure that all external projects include appropriate training for the staff of the WHS Office as an integral part of their plans	I.C2. Facilitate the coordination of training programs supported by external projects and international stakeholders	M	

I.D. Review the international links of the WHS	I.D1. Consider forming a committee to coordinate international inputs of the WHS	I.D1-1. Set up an international coordination meeting every year I.D1-2. Enlarge the international coordination meetings and invite representatives of universities and scientific cooperation programs	M M
	I.D2. Develop proposals to create, subject to funding, and institute based on the WHS Office as a national/international training facility.	I.D2-1. Create a training centre in Champasak (Project of Public Heritage House to be implemented in Champasak)	L
I.E. Monitor and review the effectiveness of the WHS Office and the overall state of conservation of the WHS	I.E1. Draw up measures for monitoring the site's condition and effectiveness of the WHS Office	I.E1. Increase the effectiveness and support the management of the Provincial Heritage Committee	L
		I.E2. Implement the Heritage Fund to provide some funding to the heritage institutions	L
I.F. Secure adequate resources for the conservation, restoration, maintenance, interpretation and ongoing management of the WHS	I.F1. Maximise funding from Province, site income and the Vat Phou fund for the management of the WHS.	I.F1. Use the Heritage Fund to support conservation, maintenance and restoration activities (idem I.E2)	L
	I.F2. Seek international funding for specific projects within agreed priorities for WHS.	I.F2. Reinforce the coordination between international programs (see also I.C2. and I.D1-1.)	M
	I.F3. Provide an office for international projects working within the WHS.	I.F3. Implement new office for international teams outside the monument zone (Project of Public Heritage House in Champasak)	L

Table 2: Actions in Zone 4 The Monument Protection Zone

Objective	Tasks	Actions	Term
II.A. Make all parts of Zone 4 secure and free of encroachment	II.A1. Staff and patrol all parts of Zone 4	II.A1. Reinforce the formal process of control and patrol not only in zone 4 (see also I.B3.)	M
	II.A2. Remove modern building (rice field hut at Hong Nang Sida)	II.A2. Demolish the existing concrete structure	L
	<b>II. A3. Establish a Landscape Plan and Land Use guidelines in Zone 4 (UNESCO, 2014)</b>	II. A3. Set up a detailed plan based on landscape preservation for the monument zone	M
II.B. Improve understanding of Zone 4	II.B1. Continue recording and investigation of structures	II.B1-1. Publish the results of the new investigations II.B1-2. Inform UNESCO on the new findings in order to prepare the SOUV and management plan update	L L
		II.B2. Ensure that copies of all records are held by WHS Office	II.B2. Improve archiving and data backup of records and inventories (idem I.B4.)
II.C. Conserve/ restore major structures through work of WHS Office or external projects	II.C1. When necessary carry out emergency measures to support structures	II.C1. Update the priorities of emergency measures to be taken	M
	II.C2. Clear and clean all major structures	II.C2. Implement the Heritage Fund to support maintenance activities (idem I.E2)	M
	II.C3. Monitor effectiveness of new drainage system at Vat Phou and identify any further necessary work on drainage systems. Examine need for works to control river on north side of Vat Phou (threat of erosion to northern terraces and northern courtyard building)	II.C3. Update the assessment of hydrological problems	L
	II.C5. Make proposals for conservation/ restoration of courtyard building, Nandi Hall, Hong Nang Sida	II.C5. Decide if the Italian team will continue working on Nandin Temple	M
	II.C6. If necessary, provide temporary roof over the parts of the Vat Phou sanctuary which are at risk	II.C6. Make a feasibility study to create an alternative access to the sanctuary for maintenance and conservation works	L
II.D. Maintain Zone 4	<b>II.D1. Define more clearly the assignments and responsibilities of the public and private stakeholders</b>	II.D1-1. Update the work sharing between WHSO and the concessionary company (idem I.B5-1.) II.D1-2. Clarify the assignments and responsibilities of the private company before the contract renewal	M M
		II.D2. Make better arrangements for disposal of garbage	II.D2. Organise garbage collection and treatment, not only in the monument zone

	II.D3. Reduce amount of rubbish from Vat Phou Festival	II.D3. Propose alternative solutions to waste burning	L
II.E. Secure artefacts	II.E1. Collect, catalogue and store safety remaining carved stones at Vat Phou	II.E1-1. Complete the museum inventory II.E1-2. Develop the staff training in catalogue and storage activities (idem I.B4. and II.B2.)	S H
	II.E2. Build extension to museum store	II.E2-1. Draw up feasibility study for museum and storage room limited extension and improvements II.E2-2. Provide a larger storehouse in another building outside the monument zone (Project of Public Heritage House in Champasak)	M M

Table III: Protection of the wider landscape from development and environmental pressures (Zones 1 &amp; 3)

Objective	Tasks	Actions	Term
III.A. Establish effective involvement of the WHS Office in all decisions concerning new construction within the World Heritage Site	III.A1. Agree system for District urban planners to consult WHS Office on all proposed new constructions in Zones 1 and 3	III.A1-1. Improve the formal procedure for works and building permit authorisation, including consultation process of WHSO (Idem I.B3. and II.A1.) III.A-2. Implement an Advisory Reception Desk to help the residents to design their projects and control more effectively	M L
	III.A2. Review regulations in Mgt Plan Actions and policies 13-14, 16 as basis for agreeing rules for what new construction is permitted (see Annex C)	III.A2-1. Draw up the zoning and detailed plans, taking into account the consultation process with the villagers. III.A2-2. Enforce the proposed urban regulations by official decrees at the appropriate provincial and national levels	M L
	III.A3. Produce guidance on appropriate types of development within villages in Zone 3	III.A3-1. Complete the plans and building codes with guidance on landscape and architecture	L
		III.A3-2. Develop the public consultation process with the villagers (idem III.A2-1.)	M
<b>III. A4. Produce guidance on the overall improvement of facilities (roads, water supply, garbage treatment, telephone poles...) (UNESCO, 2014)</b>	III. A4. Draw up specific impact assessment study before implementing new public facilities	L	
III.B. Ensure that all new construction in Zone 3 is preceded, if necessary, by rescue excavation, and that an archaeologist observes all new construction while it is in progress	III.B1. Identify staff and resources in WHS Office to carry out rescue excavations.	III.B1. Implement a preventive archaeology rapid intervention brigade (idem I.B3.)	M
	III.B2. Ensure that all rescue excavations are fully recorded and that the records are placed in the WHS Office.	III.B2. Set up training in preventive archaeology (idem I.C1-2.)	M
III.C. Carry out rescue excavation in advance of unavoidable erosion along the bank of the River Mekong within the Ancient City	III.C1. Identify areas requiring excavation over next 5 years.	III.C1. Update the assessment of erosion issues	L
	III.C2. Identify staff resources in WHS Office for carrying out work and carry out necessary work.	III.C2. Implement specific training on erosion issues	L
	III.C3. Ensure that excavations are fully recorded and that records are placed in WHS Office	III.C3. Complete the training in recording and inventory (idem I.B4. and II.B2.)	M
III.D. Conserve Champasak Town and improve its appearance as main gateway to site.	III.D1. Develop urban plan to protect character of town	III.D1.1. Draw up the zoning plans and detailed plans considering the consultation process with the villagers. (idem III.A2.1)	M
		III.D12. Draw up specific impact studies regarding the landscape and ecological aspects that may be affected by the proposed new areas of urban expansion	L
	III.D2. Restore and rehabilitate historic buildings in town. Improve character and appearance of streets	III.D2.1. Set up the architectural inventory of the villages	M
		III.D2.2. Identify priority actions for preservation and restoration	M

<i>Table 4: Access, Tourism, Economic Development and Local Community Involvement</i>			
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Term</i>
IV.A. Develop and implement an integrated and coordinated interpretation plan for the whole World Heritage Site	IV.A1. Produce integrated interpretation plan, including plans and designs for different forms of interpretation	IV.A1. Draw up interpretation plans and explanations for visitors (see also III.A2-1 and III.D1-1)	M
	IV.A2. Develop introductory visitor centre un Champasak	IV.A2. Create the Public Heritage House in Champasak (idem I.D2-1. and II.E2-2.)	L
	IV.A3. Publish introductory orientation brochure	IV.A3. Create a new brochure, considering the overall listed site, not only Vat Phou	M
	IV.A4. Provide site signage to all accessible parts of site	IV.A4. Provide information for tourists put on signboards	M
	IV.A5. Develop heritage trail	IV.A5. Support coordination of public and private stakeholders interested in heritage trails	M
	IV.A6. Carry out necessary physical works to make access safe	IV.A6. Identify priorities for safety works	M
IV.B. Ensure that services for visitors are of the highest possible standard. Integrate Vat Phou into wider provincial and regional tourism circuits	IV.B.1 Develop community-based tourism proposals of Mekong Tourism Development Project	IV.B. Support coordination of public and private stakeholders for tourism development (See also IV.A5)	M
	<b>IV.B.2 Produce a tourism management plan in terms of tourism development and tourism control during peak times. (UNESCO 2014)</b>	IV.B.2.1. Invite the public and private stakeholders to participate in the production of a tourism management plan	L
		IV. B. 2.2. Propose a more flexible system for peak times to improve temporary facilities and security during the festival	L
IV.C. Ensure that the maximum amount possible earned from sustainable tourism remains within the local community	IV.C. Develop local guide services	IV.C. Develop training for guides	L
IV.D. Increase educational role of site	IV.D1. Produce educational material for schools	IV.D1. Print information material for schools	M
	IV.D2. Develop a centre for public education	IV.D2. Create the Public Heritage House in Champasak (Idem I.D2-1., II.E2-2. and IV.A2)	S

*Acronyms and abbreviations**AIA*      *Archaeological Impact Assessment**SOUV*      *Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**BHIA*      *Built Heritage impact Assessment**UNESCO*      *United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation**CHIA*      *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment**WHS Office*      *World Heritage Site Office*