



The Outstanding Universal Value of the Bamiyan Valley

Since its name appeared for the first time in historical records in the late 4th century B.C. the name Bamiyan was linked to a peaceful and prospering landscape.

The artistic and architectural remains in the valley which has evolved through remarkable geological formations are evidence of the fruitful interchange of religious values and diverse cultural traditions between civilizations of the East and the West throughout generations. They illustrate the social and cultural evolution of society under the direct influence of their natural environment over the period of time.

Outstanding representations of cave art, paintings and colossal figures shaped into the soft cliff surface had been formed to monumental expression of religious belief which is today directly associated to the deliberate destruction of irreplaceable cultural heritage.

The high level of authenticity of even the destroyed archaeological fragments as well as the high integrity of the natural setting composed of an ancient irrigation system and intensively cultivated fields have been the reasons to include the Valley of Bamiyan on the **World Heritage List in Danger** in 2003.

Since then the UNESCO/Japan-Trust in Funds project for the preservation of the Bamiyan Site has brought together international experts and modern methods in order to consolidate the most endangered archaeological structures. Parallely the efforts have been concentrated to analyse the impact of the ongoing development process within the valley on the integrity of the cultural landscape.

In close consultation between international experts and Afghan authorities a zoning proposal was developed that seeks to balance the necessity for protection of cultural zones and for offering areas for city development.

This zoning proposal resulted from a systematic analysis based on explorations in the field in 2005 and has been officially adopted by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Afghanistan in March 2006. It will serve as guiding concept for future infrastructure project within the valley.

In line with the UNESCO recommendations of the 4th Expert Working Group meeting in Kabul (Dec 2005) this event will reflect the ongoing development efforts in Bamiyan and explain the potential of the new Zoning Plan its significance for the protection of the **Outstanding Universal Value** of the Valley as it is stated in **Article 1 of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention** adopted by the Government of Afghanistan.

For that purpose UNESCO has invited Prof. Michael Petzet, President of ICOMOS International and Prof. Michael Jansen RWTH Aachen University as renowned international experts in the field of Cultural Heritage preservation.

Any major international and national actor in the development sector in Bamiyan has been asked to participate in order to initiate a fruitful discussion and broad understanding and acceptance of the proposed zoning scheme and instruction catalogue.

OBJECTIVES

Awareness Rising

- Explaining the Outstanding Value of the Bamiyan Valley
- Explaining the need for controlled development in the context of the World Heritage
- Explaining the Zoning Plan for the protection of the Cultural Landscape of the Bamiyan Valley

Development Issues

- Identification of existing capacities and search for synergy effects
- Agreement of long term development objectives
- Coordination of activities within the limits of the World Heritage Site

Activities

- Coordinate the development progress
- Consolidate Experts
- Coordinate funds / donors
- Improve management capabilities of local directorships
- Strengthen local administrative capacities

Outcome

- Definition of a long term development strategy
- Establish a Bamiyan Development Committee
- Integration of the Cultural Management Plan into the development strategy

WORKSHOP and EXHIBITION

Sunday, 30 July/
Monday, 31 July/
Tuesday, 01 August

Planning Tools and Implementation Workshop with technical staff in Bamiyan and UNESCO experts of RWTHacdc

Reading and Understanding of the UNESCO
Zoning proposal and land-use instructions
Practical Session:
Zoning Proposal as Planning Tool

CONFERENCE

Wednesday, 02 August Block I Presentation of the New Masterplan Bamiyan Perspectives and Constraints: The future of the Bamiyan Valley

Chair: Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

Welcome by H.E. Habiba Sorabi, Governor of
Bamiyan

Message and opening remarks by Ministry of
Urban Development and Housing

Message by Ministry of Information, Culture
and Tourism

Message from UNESCO

Message from ICOMOS,
Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet
World Heritage Site:
Outstanding Universal Value of the Cultural
Landscape

Message from RWTHacdc,
Prof. Dr. Michael Jansen
Protecting Cultural Properties:
The World Heritage Zoning Plan

Thursday, 03 August, morning Block II

Public Participation in Planning processes Discussion and Comments with Community Representatives

Chair: Governor of Bamiyan

Mayor of Bamiyan

Provincial Jirga/Council of Bamiyan

NSP Development Councils of Villages

Representatives of local authorities

Thursday, 03 August, afternoon Block III

Promoting the Outstanding Universal Value in development projects Impact of the New Bamiyan Masterplan on development Projects in the Bamiyan Valley

Chair: Prof. Michael Jansen

German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

United Nations Assistance Mission to
Afghanistan (UNAMA / FAO)

US Agency for International Development
(USAID)

Representatives of Non Governmental
Organisations (NGO)

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BAMIYAN Cultural Masterplan Conference 2006

"The Future in the Past"

Preserving the World Heritage
Development in the Cultural Landscape
of the Bamiyan Valley

30th July - 3rd August 2006



RWTHacdc
Aachen Center for Documentation and Conservation



International Council on
Monuments and Sites
Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites



National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development