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Dr. PHOEURNG Sackona

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND FINE ARTS,
PRESIDENT OF THE CAMBODIAN NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

FOREWORD

Everyone agrees that it was a difficult time and the effects of the universal pandemic continue to persist... Few of the institutions have managed to maintain a share of activity. The APSARA National Authority, vigilant guardian of the ANGKOR HERITAGE SITE, is one of them and this is to be congratulated.

Under the active leadership of the Director General of the Authority and his valiant colleagues, the Deputy Director Generals, the Directors and the staff assigned to the safeguarding of monuments and the maintenance of the site, many works have been carried out.

Obviously, their first concerns were the most famous such as the temple of ANGKOR WAT, majestic and constantly posing many technical problems, or the jewel, the temple of BANTEY SREI, and so on.

The less visited ones have not been overlooked, however, such as Tonle Sgnout, a former basin that is now dry. In all the operations carried out, the scientific and technical staff, continuously and effectively supported by the administrative frameworks, adhere to the standards and principles of cultural heritage management. All of them take great care to safeguard the values which enabled ANGKOR to be inscribed on the World Heritage List and which have earned it (as was the case, most recently, at the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee) the satisfaction and even the congratulations of the Committee. In the Board of Directors of the APSARA National Authority - that I chair - we have always paid particular attention to

the opinions and suggestions of ICOMOS, the Committee and UNESCO in general.

In this regard, we welcome the fact that the Ad Hoc Experts of the ICC for ANGKOR periodically carried meticulous follow-up and the most rigorous technical monitoring of the programs implemented in several temples and their surroundings. Our warm gratitude is assured to them.

As this short illustrated report shows, the activity at ANGKOR has not been neglected and the difficulties have been overcome.

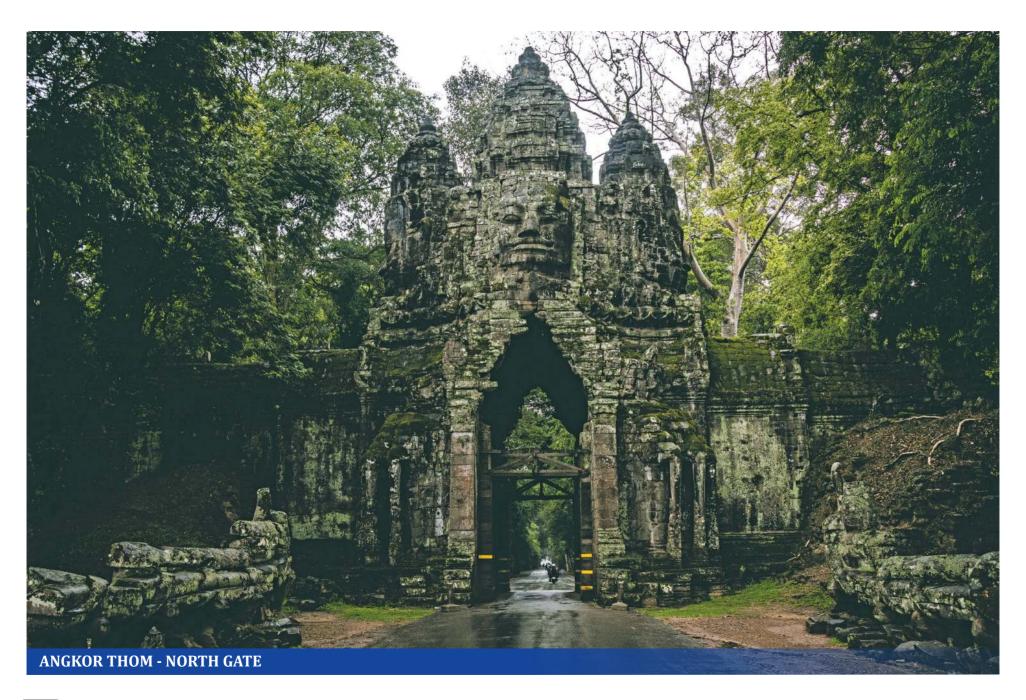
We are particularly pleased to have noted no case of abandonment of the site or of slackening of maintenance, nor, above all, of a lack of vigilance which could lead to the looting of heritage or the illicit traffic of archaeological artefacts...

Thus, Khmer heritage, both national and universal in scope, is safeguarded, ANGKOR, this peerless gem, is preserved! The Conservation and Sustainable Development activity is maintained, whatever the cost!

But vigilance remains essential. It is up to the APSARA National Authority to stay the course. Here and there improvements can be made to the programs.

The effort must not be relaxed.





PRESENTATION

The universal pandemic and the side effects of the Coronavirus have not spared the world of cultural heritage. All over the world, safeguarding and recovery activities have slowed down. Visits to historic monuments and archaeological sites have come to a halt, sometimes abruptly, and in the case of cultural tourism, a drop in the visitor's attendance rate, detrimental to economic development.

The Kingdom of Cambodia has not, of course, escaped from the general fate. However, the support of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and that of the Ministry of Economy and Finance has enabled us to maintain, for the most part, a good level of activity. Despite the fall in tourism revenues in ANGKOR, the APSARA National Authority was able to obtain, in addition to working budget for the administration (emoluments and salaries of staff, maintenance of equipment and premises), credits for scheduled works. We warmly thank Her Excellency Dr. PHOEURNG Sackona and His Excellency Dr. AUN Pornmoniroth.

Thus, the planned works could be implemented, mainly for the maintenance of the Sites and the conservation of the Monuments, without, neglecting the maintenance both inside and in the surroundings of the monuments as in the ways, which lead there. In addition, in accordance with standards, archaeological surveys and limited excavations were carried out before any work to consolidate or restore historical remains.

As is well known, at UNESCO and among the members of the World Heritage Committee, ANGKOR's programs benefit from permanent monitoring by a Group of independent experts, internationally known in their respective specialties and unanimously respected in the objectivity of their judgments and their dedication to the heritage of humanity. It is a pleasure for me to express to them once again our feelings of deep gratitude and to remind them that it is:

FOR CONSERVATION

(preliminary excavations and surveys, consolidation or restoration, maintenance) the professors:

Mounir BOUCHENAKI, former Assistant Director General (ADG) of UNESCO for Culture, former Director General of ICCROM, archaeologist;

Stefano DE CARO, former Director General of Antiquities of Italy, former Director General of ICCROM, curator and archaeologist;

Masaya MASUI, professor at Kyoto University (Japan), architect and curator;

Eric PALLOT, Inspector General of Historical Monuments (France), architect and curator;

In addition, I wish to extend my deep gratitude to the late experts, whose contributions were importantly significant: **Prof. Georgio CROCI**, **Prof. André LABLAUDE** and **Prof. Hiroyuki SUZUKI**.



Dr. HANG Peou

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE APSARA NATIONAL AUTHORITY





FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(protection of the environment and cultural landscapes, enhancement of the site and its surroundings, cultural tourism, development projects around the site) the professors:

Bernard HUBERT, emeritus research director at the National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA) and Director of Studies at the School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS), expert in sustainable development;

Jean-Marie FURT, Professor at the University of Corsica Pascal Paoli and specialist in economic tourism and sustainable territorial management, expert in sustainable development and cultural tourism;

Shinji TSUKAWAKI, Professor of Geoscience at the Institute of Nature and Environmental Technologies, University of Kanazawa (Japan), expert in sustainable development.

Each of these experts was kind enough to keep themselves informed of the details of the work in progress, analyse the files that APSARA National Authority (via the Permanent Secretariat of the ICC for ANGKOR - UNESCO) sent to them on regular basis and take part in the video conferences. Periodically organized, the objective of these technical sessions is to listen to the explanations provided by their Khmer colleagues, involved on field

and, above all, to give them their remarks, suggestions and recommendations. At these technical consultation meetings and at the periodic sessions of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) for ANGKOR, (created at the intergovernmental conference on ANGKOR, in TOKYO in October 1993, and confirmed by a decision of the Executive Board of UNESCO) regularly attended by the Director of the UNESCO Office in Cambodia, Mr. Umar Alam SARDAR accompanied by his team.

We owe them gratitude and heartfelt thanks for their constant support and invaluable help.

Finally, let us record that nothing could have been achieved without the unfailing support and dedication of the Permanent Secretariat of the ICC, and that of the Co-Chairs of ICC (France and Japan) and the countries involved in ANGKOR consider as an example.

This brief report provides an overview of many activities that the pandemic and budgetary constraints were unable to interrupt.

We would like to see it as a great tribute to the APSARA teams, to our international colleagues who were able to stay in ANGKOR, to the Ad Hoc Experts, to the UNESCO office in Phnom Penh and to the Permanent Secretariat of the ICC.



INTRODUCTION

REMINDER - ANGKOR (Cambodia - C 668)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: December 14, 1992

Criteria: (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

Years of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992-2004

Relevant decisions of the Committee: 27 COM 7 A.22; 28 COM 15A.23; 30 COM 7 B.61; 32 COM 7 B.65; 34 COM 7.B65; 38 COM 7 B.8; 44 COM 7B.139.



ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'ÉDUCATION,
LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE

CONVENTION CRNCERNANT
LA PROTECTION RUPATRIMOINE
MONDIAL
CULTUREL ET NATUREL

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial
a inscrit

sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial

L'inscription sur cette Liste consacre la valeur universelle exceptionnelle d'un bien culturel ou naturel afin qu'il soit protégé au bénéfice de l'humanité

DATE D'INSCRIPTION

14 décembre 1592

LE DIRE CTEUR GÉNÉRAL DE L'UNESCO



FOLLOW-UP MISSIONS

September 2005: UNESCO technical advice mission concerning the protection of zones 1 and 2 of the site,

Permanent monitoring: the Ad Hoc Experts of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) set up in October 1993 (Intergovernmental Conference on Angkor, held in TOKYO, Japan) examine twice a year (June and December) the monitoring of the state of conservation of the property as well as projects (both **Conservation** and **Development**) in progress or proposed on the ANGKOR site. After examination and discussion of the projects, the RECOMMENDATIONS of the experts are approved by the ICC and transmitted to the Cambodian authorities for their implementation, which is reported to the ICC at its subsequent session. It should be noted that the Ad Hoc Experts regularly visit the field.

SPECIAL REMARKS

By its decision **34 COM 7B.65**, taken at its 34th session in BRASILIA (Brazil), the COMMITTEE **took due note of the progress made by** the Kingdom of Cambodia in the management of the ANGKOR site, by strengthening the legal framework enabling better use and efficient management of land (through the Institution for the Protection and Safeguarding of Angkor, the APSARA NATIONAL AUTHORITY), as well as by controlling illegal construction activities in the right-of-way good.

By its decision **38 COM 7 B.8**, taken at its 38th session in DOHA (Qatar), the COMMITTEE **congratulated the Kingdom of Cambodia** for the significant progress made in the Conservation and Management of the property and **also commended** for the establishment of a tourism management plan and a risk map, important tools for management.

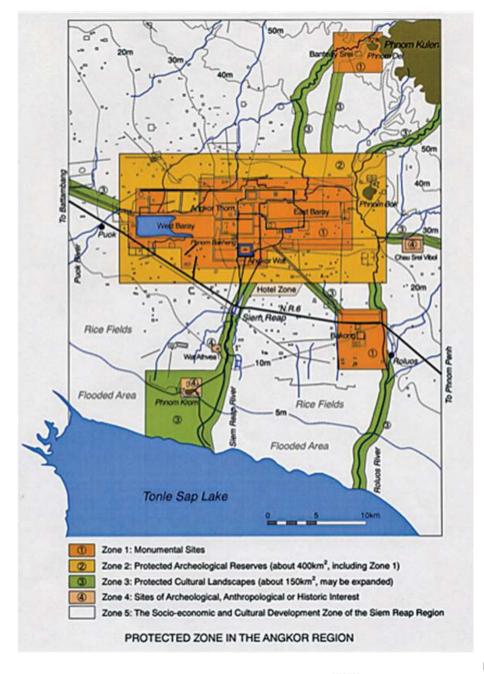
By its decision **44 COM 7B.139**, taken at its 38th session in FUZHOU (China), the COMMITTEE **expressed its satisfaction** for the work accomplished and, in particular, **congratulated** the State Party for not having approved the implementation of the construction project of a large tourist complex on the edge of the protected area of ANGKOR, while asking it to submit the technical documents relating to any other alternative project, if applicable.

PREAMBULE

The year 2020 (especially since March 2020) was marked by the direct or collateral effects of the global pandemic, due to the spread around the world, from Asia, of the coronavirus (known as COVID-19).

This pandemic, which has caused, in particular, an almost complete stop of intercontinental flights, has been at the origin of an almost total weakening of tourist flows. We have therefore seen the ANGKOR site gradually emptied of its international visitors.

Likewise, this pandemic has forced the majority of the international archaeological teams, which contribute to the CONSERVATION and CONSOLIDATION of the monuments of Angkor site to temporarily leave Cambodia (only a few teams were able to stay on site). On the other hand, the various Departments of the APSARA National Authority, thanks to funding provided by the Royal Government of Cambodia, have been able to activate and sometimes even intensify their activities. The following report provides an illustrated overview.



ANGKOR
Activities for the Conservation and the Sustainable Development of the World Heritage Site

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I. THE SITE IN TRANSITION

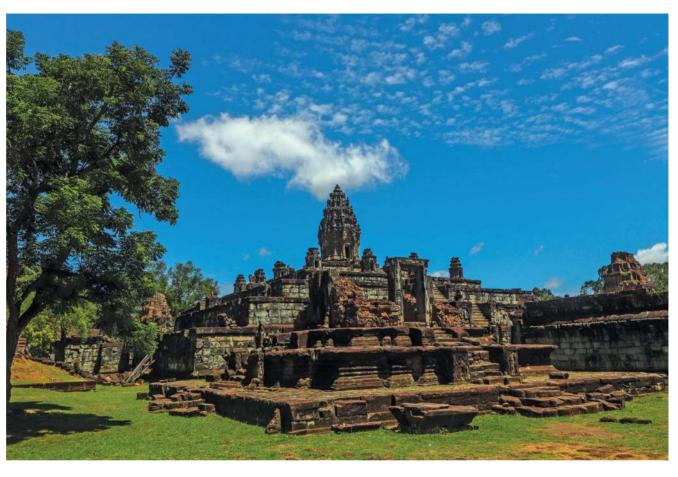
A. CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS

First of all, it should be noted that constant monitoring of monuments is ensured, following the indications on the Risk Map. In 2021 a MAINTENANCE UNIT for Conservation (which focuses more on the consolidation of the monuments than on the actual restoration, which is only used in the event of absolute necessity) had been set up.

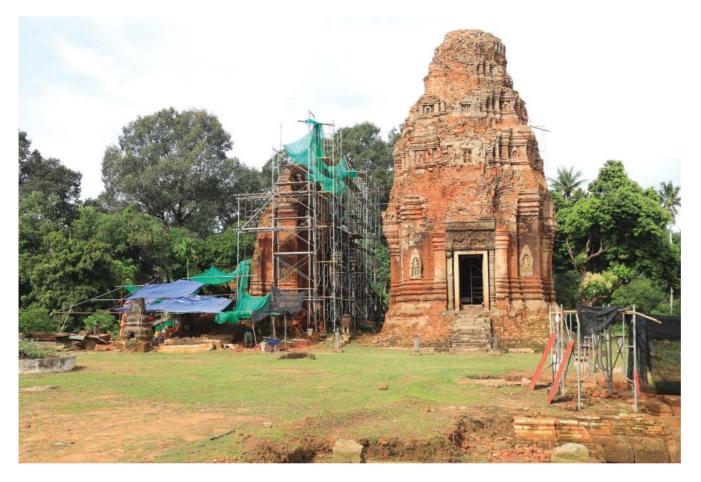
The program, implemented, follows the proposals and prescriptions made in the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Experts of the ICC.



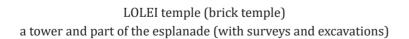




BAKONG Temple a brick tower and, most recently, the south-eastern wall of the temple















TANEI temple the east gate

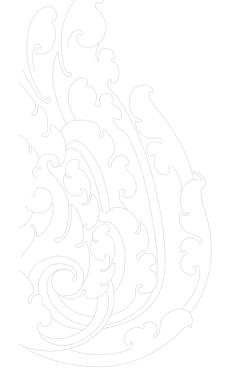








TONLE SGNUOT the central tower



ANGKOR WAT

Several points in the main temple of Angkor (considered as a permanent worksite), such as the west gate of the temple (phase 2 of restoration work), the foundations of the entrance door to the east, or the Bakan tower











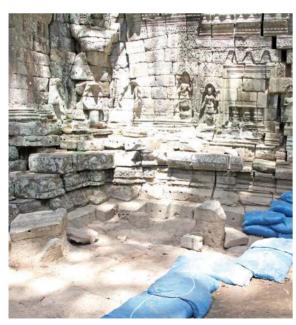








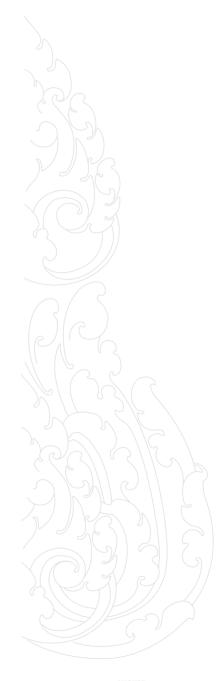
BANTEAY KDEI Temple the West gate (phase 1)





PREAH KHAN Temple rehabilitation of the pier (on the BARAY North side)







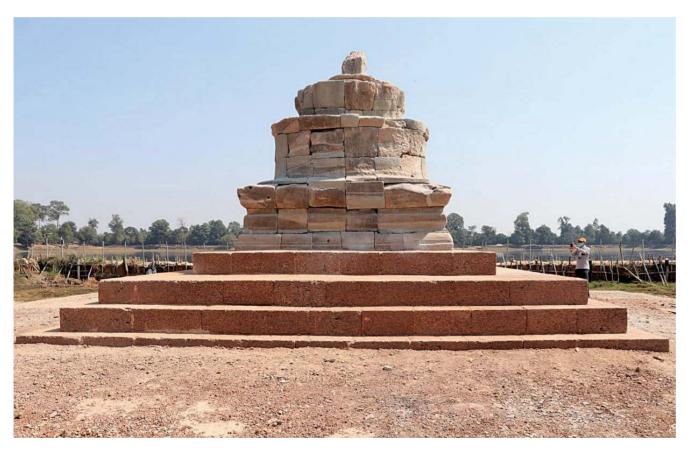


TAKEO Bridge
on the Siem Reap River, also with private
funding, the APSARA National Authority
rehabilitated the ROHAT
(traditional noria on the river)



In the middle of the historic SRAS SRANG basin (object of conservation and research, for many years), the APSARA National Authority, completed, with private funding (patrimonial patronage), the restitution of the temple which stood there (in the middle of the basin), according to the epigraphy and the archaeological archives of the EFEO.

The monument was inaugurated by H.E MEN Sam An,
Deputy Prime Minister of the Royal Government and H.E Dr. PHOEURNG Sackona,
Minister of Culture and Fine Arts







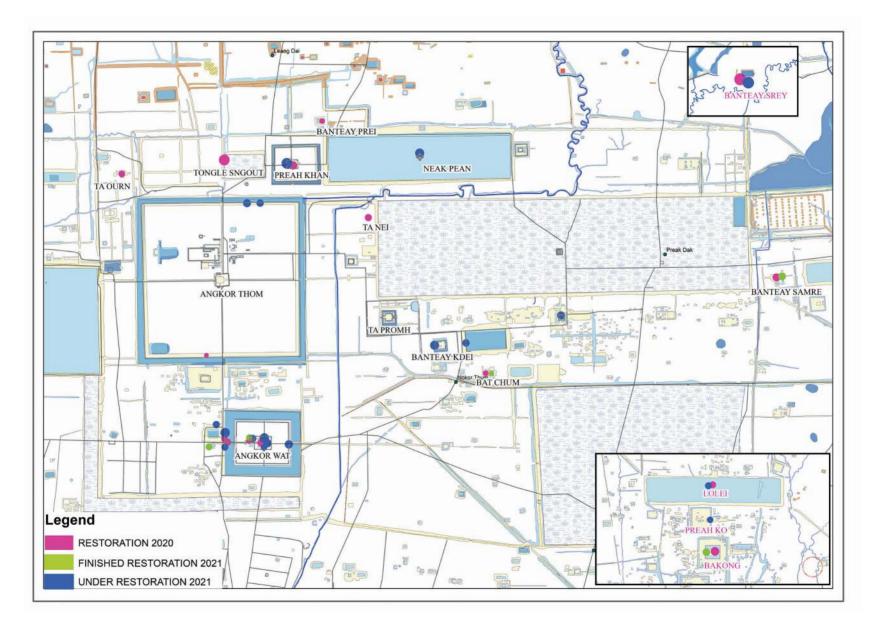




BAYON Temple
(large central temple of the city of Angkor
Thom), consolidation work on the 3rd Terrace,
at the southwest corner of the Temple



RESTORATION WORKS IN 2020-2021 BY APSARA NATIONAL AUTHORITY



I. THE SITE IN TRANSITION

B. MANAGEMENT OF THE HYDRAULIC NETWORK

It should be remembered that the WATER monuments (barays, basins) and the hydraulic network (by canals) through the 40,000-hectare site are part of Angkor's identity through centuries and constitute essential elements of its authenticity. Its conservation, in the best possible condition, is imperative for safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of Angkor (OUV).



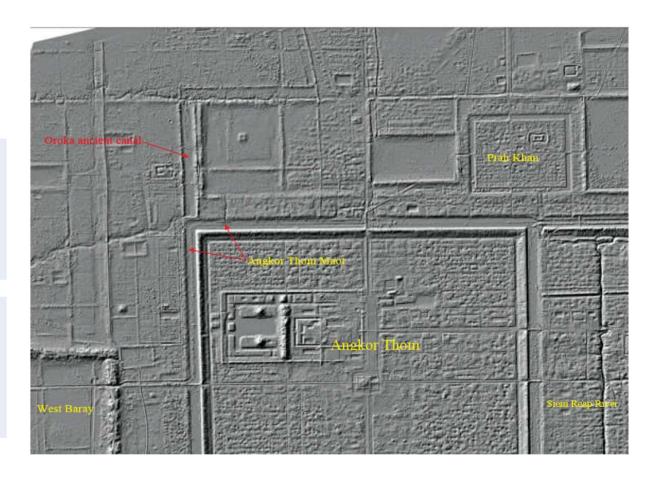


LOCATION OF OROKA ANCIENT CANAL

APSARA National Authority is continuously and through regular efforts, attached to:

Continuation of the **rehabilitation** works of the historic hydraulic system, thus an on-going project such as the repair of certain parts of the Baray's dykes, another, no less considerable, has been submitted for the opinion of the Ad Hoc Experts, namely the cleaning and re-filling of the ancient canal known as "OROKA", an important element of the historic route,

Permanent fight against **floods** which can endanger both the integrity of Angkor and the lives of the people who traditionally live there.

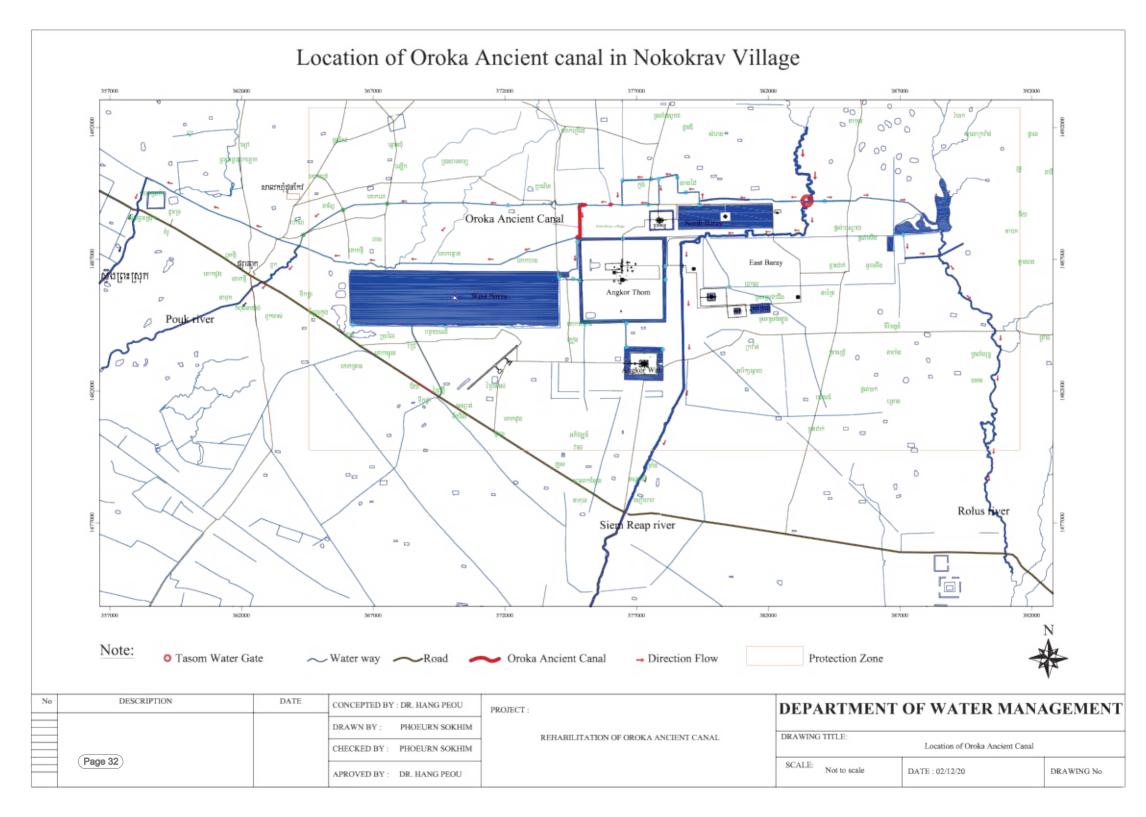


Finally, it should be noted that to ensure the rehabilitation of the SIEM REAP river (zone 3 of the Zoning Plan) an important part of the Angkorian hydraulic system, operation within the framework of a major road network rehabilitation project to which the Royal Government has allocated 150 million dollars for the development of 38 roads, several ministries and the Province of Siem Reap,

in cooperation with the APSARA National Authority, are working to clean it up, enhance its environment and beautify its banks. This large-scale operation involves the transfer, out of Angkor Site, of the population illegally settled along the banks. The reception area for this population is at RUN TA EK, outside the site classified on the World Heritage List.

LOCATION OF OROKA ANCIENT CANAL









II. THE SITE IN DEVELOPMENT

A. MANAGEMENT OF THE FOREST AND THE LANDSCAPE

Like Water, Forest and plants in general are part of the history and cultural landscape of ANGKOR. Any damage to their integrity constitutes a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.



Department of Forestry and the Environment devoted most of its efforts (by continuing the implementation of programs started in 2018) to the planting of trees in Angkor Site (14781 in total in 2020). Likewise, in the nurseries belonging to APSARA, 152,662 precious wood plants were grown and an organic compost program started. At the same time, the "Garden of Spices", built in 2006-2007, was revitalized in 2019 with the aim of creating Botanical Garden in Angkor Site.

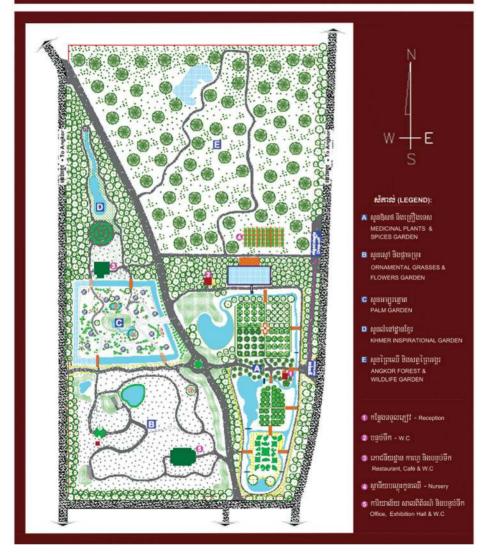






សូលក្នុជាតិអន្តរ អាជ្ញាធរជាតិអប្សរា APSARA ANGKOR BOTANICAL GARDEN

OVERVIEW OF ANGKOR BOTANICAL GARDEN







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In addition, in cooperation with the Forestry Administration (Phnom Penh) and the Wildlife Alliance, the APSARA National Authority has released rare bird species and wild animals into the ANGKOR forest. This reintegration serves to strengthen biodiversity and protect wildlife.





















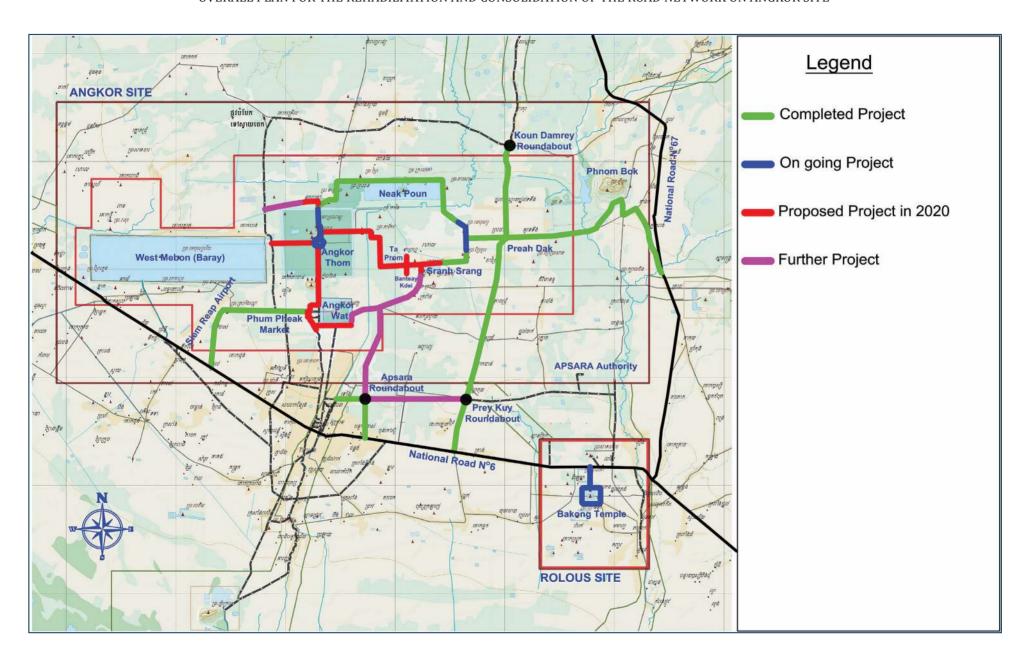
II. THE SITE IN DEVELOPMENT

B. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

It should be remembered that the Angkor site has always been inhabited (there are 113 villages) and it was inscribed taking into account this socio-cultural reality. Therefore, before even thinking about tourist infrastructures to facilitate visits (ANGKOR being the flagship site for Cambodian tourism - the tourism industry represents 12.1% of employment in Cambodia and 13.5% of GDP comes from tourism revenue), it is to the population that we dedicate in priority the effort to take care of **road infrastructure**.











Road infrastructure

As part of the implementation of its overall plan for the rehabilitation and consolidation of the road network in the ANGKOR site, the APSARA National Authority has carried out important works that have involved:

- Section between the Temple of ANGKOR WAT and National Road 6 (length of 6711 meters and a width of 8-10 meters),
- Section between the Temple of BANTEAY KDEI and the Temple of PRE RUP (length of 2476 meters and a width of 6-9 meters),
- Road between the Temple of BAYON and the North Gate of the historic city ANGKOR THOM (DAI CHHNANG Gate length of 2451 meters and a width of 5-6 meters),









In the commune of BANTEAY SREI, an area included in the World Heritage List and located north of the central site, a road starting from SVAY THOM towards the PRADAK market and towards the roundabout called the "Baby-elephant" has been rehabilitated









Over a length of 12,616 meters and a width of 6 meters, the road starting from the Grand Circuit, at the level of the village of PRADAK, and passing through the Temple of BANTEAY SAMRE and PHNOM BOK, has been repaired and renovated





The road around the Temple of BAKONG and which joins the National Road 6 (towards Phnom Penh) has been renovated on 2781 meters, its width oscillating between 5 and 6 meters



Construction of the road at PHNOM KULEN, which extends between the Big Buddha and the Municipality of SVAY LEU, has continued since 2019



Rehabilitation of the 60m road (from south to north) from National Road 6 to the roundabout of the APSARA statue joining the headquarters of the APSARA National Authority (length of 1795 meters and a width of 10 meters)

Remark

It should be noted, once again, that all road works give rise, beforehand, to preventive archaeological excavations and to the filing of a report to be submitted to the Ad Hoc Experts of the ICC







Tourism Infrastructure and Services

To better welcome visitors and offer them a memorable visit, APSARA National Authority has developed:

Parvis in front of Angkor Wat (with an interpretation center, an information center, a guide office, a first aid center, a food court, an exhibition-sales area of Cambodian craftsmanship ...),

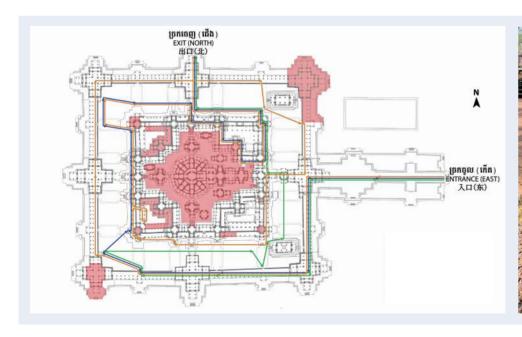






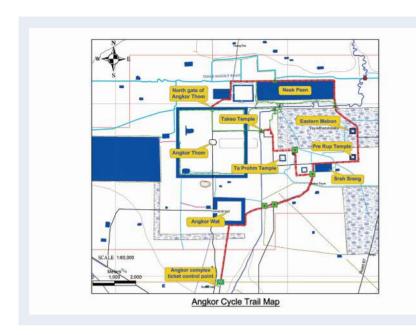
Implementation of alternative temple itineraries to avoid rush hour craze while improving signage

SIGNAGE AT ANGKOR SITE





BAYON TEMPLE
ALTERNATIVE TEMPLE ITINERARIES
AND SIGNAGE







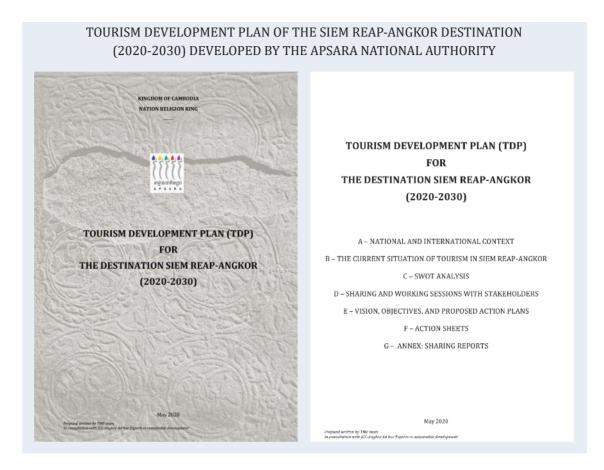


Cycle paths over 23 km (both to facilitate the movement of the population and especially schoolchildren and to discover the site and its surroundings in a different way and fully enjoy walks through the forest),



Development of a website dedicated to the Angkor site (www.angkor.com.kh) and a tourist map of Siem Reap-Angkor





Remark

It is recalled that the global pandemic, which has been raging since the beginning of 2020, has seriously affected TOURISM in Angkor. The sector suffered a drop of 89.82% in term of tourist arrivals (in 2019, 2,205,697 paying visitors, in 2020 only 400,889).

To diversify TOURISM in Angkor, satisfy the visitor and lead them to extend their length of stay, reduce the impact on the site, offer opportunities to local populations and prepare the post COVID19 recovery period, the Department of Tourism Development within the APSARA National Authority has had its technicians draw up a Tourism development plan (2020-2030).

ANGKOR WAT TEMPLE: MAINTENANCE OF THE GRASS







ANGKOR WAT TEMPLE: MAINTENANCE OF THE PATHWAYS









III. RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

As is the rule in heritage environments, any major work (consolidation or restoration) requires prior checking of the archaeological soil. It is therefore often necessary to proceed with the development of historical and archaeological documentation and the implementation of archaeological surveys (while studying, if necessary, thanks to the archives, the surveys carried out in the past). The Department of Monuments and Preventive Archaeology, in charge of conservation work, makes sure to strictly follow this rule, along with its archaeologists.

This is how the investigations led, among others, to the following remarkable discoveries:





in the temple of **ANGKOR WAT**, (absolutely unprecedented in terms of archaeological research in this major temple), wooden structures in the middle of the North basin, and a sculpture of VISHNU in the ceiling,



Likewise, in the area of the same Temple, to the west of **PREAHPOAN**, that of statues of BUDDHA, for the conservation of which (and sometimes, the restoration) is planned an international workshop bringing together specialists in the Conservation of stone sculptures,

ANGKOR WAT – DISCOVERY OF WOODEN STRUCTURES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NORTH BASIN



during the restoration of the Gate of **TAKAV** (Angkor Thom) of a statue of a divinity with four faces, buried in the ground near the northeast corner of the gate, as well as a head of Deva (we recall that statues of Devas churning the "sea of milk, shooting a Naga, adorn all the doors of Angkor Thom),











Discovery of 3 lead turtles at the **ELEPHANT TERRACE**,







Discovery of a Head of LOKESVARAK at TA NEI,









Discovery of structural elements of the Temple of LOLEI, buried in the ground of the courtyard,









Discovery of structural elements of the monument that stood in the middle of the central island of the SRAS SRANG









IV. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN ANGKOR CONDUCTED BY INTERNATIONAL TEAMS



As mentioned in the introduction, a number of international teams (members of the ICC) were able to remain in Angkor and continue the implementation of their programs, in liaison with the APSARA National Authority and informing the Ad Hoc Experts of the ICC



Archaeological Survey of INDIA (ASI) - Temple of TA PROHM;





World Monument Fund (WMF) - Temple of PHNOM BAKENG (Funded by the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh - signature on January 16, 2021 of an official agreement for the disbursement of funds);





SOPHIA University (JAPAN) in collaboration with APSARA, Works at the West Causeway of ANGKOR WAT;





Governmental Team of JAPAN, in collaboration with APSARA, JASA Project, Works at the BAYON Temple;









The team from the Republic of Korea (KOCHEF - Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, funded by KOICA), resumed its work both at the PREAH PITHU Temples (overlooking the Royal Palace) and (new project under implementation) the ELEPHANT TERRACE, a large retaining wall for the right-of-way of the Royal Palace from the time of Jayavarman VII);





France financially supports two important operations:

- Consolidation and restoration of the WEST MEBON Temple, now technically supported by the APSARA National Authority
- The training of 10 Cambodian in the field of 3D image photography of monuments (training provided by the French start-up ICONEM).







Mr. Guillaume NARJOLLET Iseiller de coopération et d'action culturelle Insellor for Cooperation Cultural Affairs AMBASSADE L EMBASS L G June 20

Prof. Azedine BESCHAOUCH

PERMANENT SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY
OF THE ICC FOR ANGKOR

CONCLUSION

This brief presentation, that is neither an assessment and nor an exhaustive report, provides a very attractive overview of the activities implemented at ANGKOR, in 2020-2021. We realize, with great satisfaction, that the global pandemic (whose collateral effects are multiple and sometimes serious) has not interrupted the effort of conservation and development. We will appreciate, in particular, the amazing archaeological discoveries made on this occasion. Some unearthed remains (for example, in the central islet of the SRAS SRANG basin) are not only of architectural interest, but also of historical significance. Attention is drawn to the exemplary care shown by young Khmer archaeologists and their concern to ensure the lasting conservation of the objects discovered (statues, quite monumental, but also "sacred" turtles).

Ad Hoc Experts of the International Coordination Committee (ICC Co-Chaired by France and Japan and of which UNESCO acts as the Permanent Secretariat in close cooperation with the APSARA National Authority) are carrying out on regular basis international monitoring of this work.

While waiting the resumption of field visits, these Experts, assisted by the APSARA National Authority and

the Secretariat, ensure follow-up on the basis of technical files and through discussions they conduct during meetings by videoconference. For its part, the World Heritage Committee is regularly informed of the state of conservation of the ANGKOR site and its monuments.

After almost thirty years of operation since the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, the ICC for ANGKOR remains a space for technical dialogue, a body for normative guidance and a promoter of international cooperation in the field of conservation and development of the heritage of humanity.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate that the World Heritage is constantly concerned about the population and communities in general. In ANGKOR, this population is endogenous and its settlement is linked to the history of the archaeological site. This is the reason why APSARA is mindful to social welfare and works to help families in need, improve their homes in the areas legal for construction.

It is legitimate to congratulate ourselves on this, but it is imperative to keep the effort and maintain the quality. Proud of the past, let's prepare a future worthy of it!



PERSPECTIVE VIEW BEFORE THE EMBELLISHMENT WORKS ANGKOR WAT

























PERSPECTIVE VIEW AFTER THE EMBELLISHMENT WORKS ANGKOR WAT





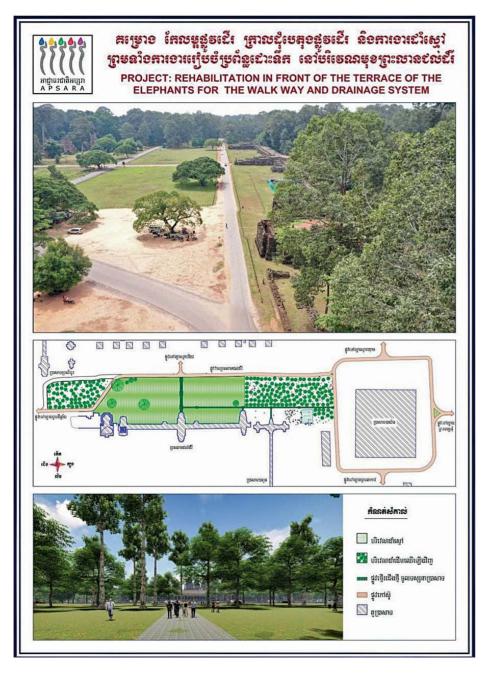






PERSPECTIVE VIEW BEFORE AND AFTER THE EMBELLISHMENT WORKS ELEPHANT TERRACE





DETOUR ROAD





