

# **A CRITICAL STUDY ON HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AT WORLD HERITAGE SITE-SIGIRIYA, SRI LANKA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Heritage denotes everything we suppose has been handed down to us from the past. Although not all heritage is uniformly desirable, it is widely viewed as a precious and irreplaceable resource, essential to personal and collective identity and necessary for self-respect. Hence we go to great lengths, often at huge expense, to protect and celebrate the heritage we possess, to find and enhance what we feel we need, and to restore and recoup what we have lost. Concerns about cultural, natural, tangible, and intangible heritage have caused governments to enact protective legislation, courts to impose penalties, and organizations to conduct awareness campaigns. Heritage has become an important economic attraction that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors and billions of dollars into communities around the world, but what is the heritage that is being protected and promoted? This paper is commentary on the theoretical basis of heritage.

Heritage is the breadth of our traditions, the monuments, objects, and culture. Most importantly, it is the range of activities, meanings and behavior we have acquired. The inheritance is more than conserving, digging, displaying, or restoring an old one. Interesting and interesting, such as historical buildings and archaeological sites. The ideas and memories of our and our identities-songs, recipes, languages, dancing and many other features. Be the subject of a public reflection, debate, and discussion. What is worth saving? What can we, or should we, forget? What memories can we enjoy, regret, or learn from? Who owns "The Past" and who is entitled to speak for past generations? The active public discussion on the material and intangible heritage of individuals, groups, communities and nations is an important aspect of the common life of our multi-cultural world.

The questions posed and the ideas offered are not intended to condone the unregulated movement of cultural or natural materials (heritage) in any form. What comprises heritage differs greatly among people sand over time, but the attachments they reflect are universal. They are expressed by peoples at all levels of technology and of every political persuasion. And heritage is everywhere implicated in what we think about, and what we do with, land, law and justice.

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## INTRODUCTION

There are two types of Heritage Sites the first represents cultural and the second represents natural heritage. Cultural heritage sites have to show a masterpiece of human creativity or an important exchange of human values over a long period of time. This exchange must be seen in architecture or technology, the planning of the town or city and the design of the landscape. It has to show evidence of a tradition or civilization that has disappeared or is still alive. It can also be a very good example of a type of building, group of buildings, and use of technology of reflect important stages in human history.

A place where humans settled and use the land in a way that represents their culture can also be a cultural heritage site, especially if the area is affected by change that cannot be reversed. The authenticity and the way the site is protected and managed are also important factors. Natural sites that can be considered to become heritage sites must show major stages in the earth's history. This can be fossils, rocks and how the land and natural features like mountains have been influenced. If an area contains rare natural formations, like unique rock shapes, or is beautiful, or has habitats and species of animals and plants that can only exist there, it becomes important to protect it. This also makes it a possible heritage site. As with cultural sites looking after the place is very important (Wright, 1994).

## A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

A heritage becomes a world heritage when it is inscribed on the UNESCO world heritage list for its outstanding value. Of the Conventions of UNESCO, the world heritage convention is the most important in the field of heritage protection. Having involved nearly all states of the world, it has also become a platform for debating the concepts and policies related to

conservation. For sites to qualify to the world heritage list they need to satisfy at least one of ten criteria as well as to meet the condition of authenticity and integrity, in short to have "outstanding universal value" (UNESCO - ICOMOS, 2010).

*"A world heritage site is a place become a place such as a building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument or mountain that is listed by the UNESCO as being of special cultural or physical significance."*

- UNESCO World Heritage Committee -

## WORLD HERITAGE SITE - SIGIRIYA

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was called Ceylon until 1972. In ancient sources it is referred to as Sri Lanka, Taprobane and also as Serandib. As a destination it indeed has everything to ensure 'Serendipity' for making happy and unexpected discoveries. Despite its size of only 65.525 square kilometers, the island offers a wide variety of landscapes and great natural beauty from picturesque beaches to impressive mountains, from rainforests to red desert like plains, from spectacular botanical gardens to unique wildlife. The profusion of heritage and cultural attractions including eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites means the tagline "Small Island, Big trip" used in promotional camping hardly promises too much. Among them **Sigiriya** is a city, palace and royal garden as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its universal value (Hettiarachchi).

The history of Sigiriya, however extends from prehistoric items to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The earliest evidence of human habitation is in the Aligala rock shelter which lies to the east of the Sigiriya rock. The major construction phase at sigiriya dates to king kasyapa I (477-495 AD) reign based on the chronicles.

Prince Kasyapa together with the army commander Migaraseized to throne from his father King Datusenasl (459-477 AD) and executed him. King Kasyapa and his master builders established his capital in Sigiriya by shifting it from Anuradhapura and gave its present name, "SimaGiri" or "Lion Mountain". He built his palace on the rock summit and laid out the fortified city and the garden complex around the rock. After his half-brother Moggallana defected him, Sigiriya reverted to a monastic center and lasted until about 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century. Thereafter, it has disappeared from the historical records until the reign of Rajasimha I of Sitavaka (1551-1593 AD) and then as a distant outpost and military center in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In early 19<sup>th</sup> century, antiquarians together with the scholar monk from the neighboring temple began to take an interest in the site. Archaeological investigation, restoration and conservation work by the Archaeological Department began in 1894. Successive commissioners of the Archaeological Department were responsible for directing research, restoration and conservation over decades. They restored the access to the palace, excavated the summit and the water garden and mapped the entire complex (Wright, 1994).

The Central Cultural fund's UESCO, Sri Lanka Cultural Triangle program began its operations in 1982 involving large scale excavation and extensive conservation and preservation action. It not only concentrated its activities within the royal complex of rock, palace, gardens and the western for trifurcations but also on the entire city and its rural hinterland (Bandaranayake, 1999).

Sigiriya is considered to be a well-planned royal city and a multi-faceted, multi period settlement which extends to several kilometers. The royal complex and the city, ramparts, moats, gateways and gardens of Sigiriya is considered to be one of the beat preserved

examples of ancient urban planning palace and garden architecture in South Asia and is an outstanding example of the 5<sup>th</sup> century Sri Lanka Town planning. The rock murals in Sigiriya has gained acceptance among scholars as the finest example of classic realism paintings, drawn in traditional Sri Lankan style. A marvel of 5<sup>th</sup> century technology can be seen in the constriction methods adopted for the gallery on the ledge of the western rock face which contains Graffiti dating from 7<sup>th</sup> century. The use of water for the aesthetic display of the site appears to have a special feature of Sigiriya hydraulics made possible only by using almost every aspects of hydraulic engineering theory.

After assessing all these outstanding universal values in Sigiriya, the World heritage Committee decided to inscribe the site a world heritage site in 17<sup>th</sup> December 1982 under criterion I, II, III, IV of the operational Guidelines (Mandawela).

### **SIGIRI FRESCOS AND SIGIRI GRAFFITI**

Criterion II is offers the best justification for the request for inscription introduced by Sri Lanka. On the other hand, the fresco of Sigiriya inaugurated a pictorial style which endured over many centuries. Frescoes adorn the western side of the rock, along with the mirror wall, a brick face covered in a highly-polished white plaster. When new, the wall was said to be able to produce reflections. Over time the Mirror Wall became a graffiti board, covered in verses scribbled by visitors. Known as "Sigiri Graffiti," some of the messages date to the 8th century CE. One inscription believed to be over 500 years old read: (Bandaranayake, 1999).

“බුදුල්මී. සියොවැආමී. සිගිරිබැලීමී.  
බැලුබැලුබො  
හොදනාගිලීලියනේනොලීමී.”

Rough translation mean "I am Budal. I came alone to see Sigiriya. Since all the others wrote

poems, I did not!" The message isn't revelatory but it offers an insight to centuries-old human thought. Budal's comment is not far off from what a visitor might offer today.

The tradition of additions by visitors forced officials to "close" the wall to new inscribing. To preserve the existing ancient graffiti, the wall is being treated to an on-going protective restoration.

A pocket in the Cobra Hood Cave is home to beautiful paintings of Sinhalese maidens performing various tasks. The maidens have escaped exposure to the elements for more than a millennium in the rock's natural cavity. The paintings are believed to be over 1,500 years old, and while the true significance is unknown, there are multiple theories. Some believe the maidens display religious rituals while others believe the images immortalize the many wives of the king (Bandaranayake, 1999).

## **THE GARDENS**

One of the most breathtaking features of Sigiriya was the gardens, which consisted of three distinct components: The water gardens, the cave and boulder gardens, and the terraced gardens. The water gardens occupied the western part of the Sigiriya complex and were further divided into three sub-sections. The first was a large plot surrounded by water connected to the main complex via four channels. The second consisted of a path flanked by two long, narrow pools supplied water by nearby streams. Circular limestone fountains were fed by an underground aqueduct system. Built to last, the Sinhalese fountains still produce terrific displays today- especially during the rainy season.

The second garden also featured small ponds with four man-made islands on either side of the narrow pools. Two of the islets boasted

ornate palaces which served as guest quarters for visiting dignitaries. Just east of the second lies the third water garden, easily identifiable by the octagonal pool with a citadel on the northeastern corner. Visitors to Sigiriya pass through the winding paths of the boulder gardens en route to the rock-top palace. Located just west of Sigiriya and geographically separating the rock from the western water gardens, the boulder gardens had decorative pavilions constructed on each rock. As impressive as the water and boulder gardens were, the terraced gardens was arguably the most impressive. At the base of the Sigiriya the gentle natural incline was terraced and planted. A limestone staircase divides the terraced gardens and guides visitors to a covered path which eventually leads to the main lion gate. Symmetrical design was a staple of the gardens, which were connected to the outer moats on the west and the man-made lake "Sigiriya Tank" to the southeast.

Additionally, an intricate underground conduit network interlinked the various pools and connected them to the lake. Today the landscaped gardens of Sigiriya are the oldest surviving in Asia and among the oldest in the world (Mandawela,).

## **NEW SIGIRI MUSEUM**

A visit to the new Sigiriya museum, one of its kind in Sri Lanka, is interesting, inspiring and intellectual. You do not go through it with a catalogue in hand or a head-set explaining each artifact as you pass it. Rather it is a museum one looks through mind engaged, sensibilities awakened and realizing it effectively though unobtrusively complements the stupendous Rock. Designed and built by Sri Lankans with Japanese aid and expertise, the new museum was opened to the public in August 2009. Its guiding concept was 'artifact as text'- displayed artifacts being text within the contextual site.

The conceptual design of the museum was by Prof Seneka Bandaranayake.

It is not a traditional museum where a monumental building houses artifacts. Rather it was architecturally designed to afford spaces for the contents which accommodate the opportunity for the individual to arrive at his or her own interpretation of the exhibits, plans, models and photographs with a minimum of 'technical' information. Each gallery would plunge the visitor into direct communication with different aspects of the past. Furthermore, the architectural design was in no way to overshadow, in the slightest, the Rock itself.

The museum, the excavated gardens and all else are secondary to the Rock. One sees the museum only as green sections among the trees as one starts to walk along its entrance path. None of the large trees on site were cut; the museum was designed around them, rising from water. Thus emerged a 'green building' successfully conserving the archaeological character of the Sigiriya monument and its site. The water below and all around the building represents the moat around the Rock.

The building - offices, museum, open air theatre and atrium covering 50,000 sq ft - is on stilts, making allowance for any flooding of the impounded SigiriOya which fills the red lotus covered pool and then released, goes its way to irrigate the land.

The architectural concept drew inspiration from the sophisticated design systems apparent in the 5th Century ruins of the Sigiriya monument, the most significant being the unique hydraulic system now apparent in the excavated gardens. Hence the built bubbly cascade of water close to the exit.

Also incorporated in the design was the very clearly enunciated 'green concept' that was inherent in the entirety of the Sigiriya rock

palace and pleasure gardens; a vernacular tradition in ancient Sri Lankan buildings.

The museum is three levelled, to parallel the climb to the summit of the Rock. The visitors' lobby gives standing room access to a short history of Sigiriya presented in the three languages: English, Sinhala and Tamil. You pass to the front atrium where a structured open space frames a stunning view of the majestic Rock. Etched in glass is the story of King Kasyapa from the Chulavamsa (historical record inscribed by a Buddhist monk in the 13th century AD.)

Entrance to the main museum is through an enclosed bridge in the form of a brick archway tunnel, which is an exact replica of an excavated archway to the Rock. This 'time tunnel' further signifies the visitor's imminent journey back to the 5th century AD. The first space is the Protohistoric Gallery; the exhibits being excavated artifacts of various sorts from iron implements to pottery and terra cotta heads and figures. A replicated iron smelting kiln proves that iron was used extensively in this region of the Island, probably earlier than the 5th century AD. The second gallery represents the Buddhist Monastic Period with artifacts of that time. The third section is the story of King Kasyapa. The room dedicated to his achievements showcases Japanese technology at its most precise.

Visitors walk on glass panels looking down, first on the water gardens, then on the mirror wall area, the lion's paw and last of all on the summit of the Rock, exactly replicated to scale. The underlying concept was to give the visitor an aerial view of the rock and gardens. It could also compensate those who are unable to make the arduous climb to the summit of the Rock. A treasured exhibit is an earring. Made of solid gold, it has a purple stone, thought to be a priceless amethyst.

The value has not been calculated since it is too precious an artifact to be subject to tests. It is definitely of the Sigiriya period since it resembles the ornaments worn by some of the fresco-women.

The fourth gallery is the mirror wall room with the kurutukavi or graffiti replicated exactly. Interestingly termed kurutuliyawili (scribbled writings), the graffiti are inscriptions along one portion of the rock face that climbers pass on their way to the summit. They are on-the-spur-of-the-moment inspired short verses (kavi) commenting on the frescoes - some in adoration and even lust, others reprimanding the girls for their immodesty. The ancient script was 'cracked' comparatively recently and the verses translated to Sinhala and English. The kavi have been exactly copied on a wall surface and presence-sensitized, a couple of them are chanted as you approach for a closer look.

The fifth and last gallery is dedicated to etho-archeology of the Sigiriya region; in it is traced the history of archaeology and findings in Sri Lanka from early on to the present day. You proceed to a spiral stairway, climbing, which brings you on to the mezzanine floor where invariably gasps are heard, especially from those who have already climbed the rock and halfway reached the wire-mesh enclosed gallery with the frescoes on display. The replication of the rock and the painted frescoes on the rock face is stunningly accurate. On the Rock, to get to this seeing point, one climbs an enclosed spiral stairway that hangs in air. From the viewing gallery looking down you see the tree covered, green ground far below you.

The museum has placed the lovely doe-eyed damsels, most of them holding lotus flowers in their hands and riding clouds in an in-built rock cave. The frescoes were recreated in the museum by Prof. Albert Dharmasiri. Many of the frescoes face a temple on a hill close by, Pidurangala, to venerate the Buddha. Originally

the entire Sigiriya rock face, apart from the mirrored sections, was covered with painted apsaras - heavenly women - estimated to be around 500. Of them only 20 are seen today, most clustered together, but some, discovered later, are inaccessible as of now to visitors.

## **LANDMARKS OF SIGIRIYA**

The Rock itself has its unique identity due to its shape not found anywhere else in the island and can be recognized miles away from the distance. Sigiriya was rediscovered during the rule of the British, by Major H. Forbes in 1831. Climbing to the Sigiriya summit was achieved by A.H.Adams and J.Bailey in 1853.

Sigiriya being a fortress, had been well designed for its defenses by having ramparts and moats built around it. There are several approaches to the inner city and the most prominent is the Western entrance. From the summit of the rock, the land areas up to distances of tens of miles can be watched making it hard for the enemy to make a surprise attack to the kingdom.

King Kassapa had reverted his fortress to an ecological wonder by having Royal Pleasure Gardens, Water Gardens, Fountain Gardens and Boulder Gardens made inside the inner city as well as at the palace premises on the Rock summit.

The most renowned is the Sigiriya Rock Paintings or Frescoes of Sigiri Damsels locally called as ' Sigiri Apsaras' painted on a Western Rock face cavity about 100 meters high from the rock base .There now remains around 21 paintings of Sigiriya Damsels but there had been around five hundred paintings during King Kassapa's time along several other places of the same Western Rock face.

Another interesting construction is the Mirror Wall, which is covered with graffiti from the 7th to the 10th centuries AD. These were written

by the people who came to see Sigiriya during those long years. Coming along the path of the mirror wall, one find the Lion Paw Terrace or Platform. Only two huge Lion's paws are remaining now but earlier there had been an enormous Lion figure or statue at the entrance. Through the Lion's paw stairway, the summit can be reached taking the iron stairway built on to the rock face. On the summit are the remains of the Palace building foundations and few ponds on a area of about 3 acres of rock summit. The largest pond was made by cutting out the rock and it is assumed that utilizing the great wind force occurring on the summit, water was brought up to fill this tank by a hydraulic system using wind power from the ground level (Bandaranayake,1999).

## **CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SIGIRI SITE**

Sigiriya today is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site and one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning. It is the most visited historic site in Sri Lanka. Destruction under the name of development takes place all around the country to which the environmentalists and the conservationists were unhappy of the plans of government as all projects in common, destroy the nature and the archeological values of them.

Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress located in the central Matale District near the town of Dambulla in the Central Province, Sri Lanka. The name refers to a site of historical and archaeological significance that is dominated by a massive column of rock nearly 200 meters (660 ft.) high. The rock fortress is now under threat as nearly 15 acres of forest cover of the sanctuary has been cleared for luxury hotel constructions. Measures were in place to begin the constructions but were put on hold as the villagers and the environmentalists began objecting to the move with the support of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA),

Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), and Department of Forest Conservation (DFC) just five years ago. Nevertheless, they have recently started the deforestation for hotel construction giving it a fresh start. It is claimed that leading businessmen who were backed by the higher rank politicians of the country are involved in the luxury tourism hotel constructions (Hettiarachchi.).

From where exactly is the authorization given to such businessmen and politicians, is the unanswered question that remains since the environmental issues began in the country. It is a sanctuary and more of a reserved place since 1993 and was protected and preserved for more than two decades. It is a valuable site since it was recognized as one of the world heritage sites of the country. The cause for the hotel construction within the buffer zone of the Sigiriya is to attract more tourists into the country apparently, causing destruction to a site that has such archeological values for nearly 800 years will not increase the percentage of tourists that come into the country, the environmentalists lamented. It is pathetic that the government turns a blind eye to the destruction and if the authorities in charge of protecting the nature and the archeological sites of the country are properly acting against the corruption and the violation it can be stopped, the environmentalists claim.

There are enough legislations and regulations vested in the constitution to protect the reservations of the country and there is no necessity to increase or include new laws but to implement them. "Implementation is what matters the most when it comes to the protection of nature or any laws in the country," the Director for Center of Environment and Nature Studies (CENS) Ravindra Kariyawasam stated.

According to the Flora and Fauna Protection Ordinance (FFPO) the ordinance even prohibits

the entry of the public or anyone with no proper permits, but how did these businessmen manage to get into the illegal clearing of forests and the clearing of economically valuable trees such as Kubuk, questioned the environmentalists. A numbers of trees which were older than 200 to 400 years were destroyed during the deforestation whereas they should be protected as the forest area is a reservation of the country.

"There are lands that belong to the WDC and the DFC within the buffer zone of Sigiriya and had been cleared by burning and cutting the valuable older trees which will take another 100 years to recreate the nature and it is an absolute destruction done to the valuable assets of the nation," Kariyawasam said. Not only is the buffer zone and the sanctuary being affected by the irresponsible tourism project construction but also the wildlife, the birds that live in it and especially the elephants.

There is an elephant path crossing the forest within the Sigiriya archeological site which is one of the most used elephant corridors in the country. We have been educated several times about the escalating Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) but a solid response is yet to be taken by the government. In such a backdrop where the trees and the forest cover of the buffer zone is being cleared it also results in affecting the farmers and people who live in the close proximity of Sigiriya as the wild animals enter into the villages and their Chena cultivation areas. It also results in destroying the water resources of the village by cutting down trees and clearing the forests for hotel constructions.

The government is concerned about the major projects in the country but not the daily lives of poor people and the farmers. This might even lead the farmers to leave their native place if they could not continue with their farming and cultivation. The environmentalists request the government to look into the destruction, taking

place in the country under the name of development and to ensure that the National



Environmental Act (NEA) and the FFPO to protect the environment and the archeological sites are implemented and take action if violated. However, the Sigiriya and its buffer zone had been under threat since the Rajapaksa regime as they were in search of treasures including a few of the archeological sites in the country. The site was damaged by the archeological department itself under the directives of the Rajapaksa regime for treasures. Even though the search for treasures has been stopped under the new government, the destruction of nature has not been stopped.

Nevertheless, it is important to assess the impacts of the destruction and its results before any projects or development is being done within the reservation of the country to ensure their safety. An Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is a crucial report that should be conducted before any changes are done to the reservations, but no such reports were conducted regarding the Sigiriya hotel constructions. It is also obvious that the reports will be against the hotel projects as it definitely would harm the archeological site (Mandawela).

The environmentalists alleged if they can destroy the reservations without any permission from relevant authorities they should be either an individual or a group of people who are backed by influential politicians of the government and the President as the Minister for environment should consider to protect the nature and to implement the laws. However, when contacted by The Sunday Leader the Director General of the Archeological Department of Sri Lanka said that the department is unaware of 15 acres of land being cleared within the buffer zones of Sigiriya for hotel constructions, and will look into the matter very soon.

## **TOURISM INDUSTRY IN SIGIRIYA**

Visitors can reach Sigiriya by catching a bus in Dambulla, the closest city about 15.5 miles (25km) away. Bus service runs daily and every 30 minutes, between 6:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Those with deeper pockets can enjoy tuk-tuk service from Dambulla, but at a price premium between 20-25 times higher than the bus fare. Visitors to Sigiriya will want to have good fitness. The citadel at the summit is an ascent of about 750 steps, most visitors are able to ascend and descend in about 2-3 hours. Be sure to bring bottled water as it is hot and beverages are not sold inside the park. Unofficial guides hover around the entrance and offer to give tours for a small fee.

The museum at Sigiriya displays photographs of the excavation, reproductions of the frescoes, and translations of the Mirror Walls' graffiti. Original artifacts and tools excavated from the site are also on display.

The museum's admission is included in the park's ticket price; it is located just outside of the main gate. Admission is half-price for guests from India and Pakistan. Sigiriya is not the only attraction in the area; one click north of the complex is Pidurangala Rock, a popular alternative for rock climbers and those who prefer to avoid the crowds of the more popular Sigiriya to the South. Pidurangala is not quite as tall but provides spectacular views of its big brother and the surrounding area (Bandaranayake, 1999).

The Pidurangala Sigiri Rajamaha Viharayais the modern white temple which serves as the entrance; if one continues up the rock, a terrace just below the summit is home to the Royal Cave Temple and a Buddha statue. For the novice visitors, unofficial guides well-versed in Sinhalese history will be happy to lead guests to the summit while giving a history lesson. For this they charge a small fee.

Nearby Minneriya National Park is famous for 'the gathering'-a sunset ritual where hundreds of elephants gather around Minneriya tank to take an evening drink. On the positive side, it is almost guaranteed that you will spot elephants here in Minneriya, yet on the negative side, the park can feel a bit like a zoo, as many jeeps gather in the early evening in the same spot to snap photos of the herd. Another national park close by which is famous for its large herds of wild elephants. Here you can also spot leopards, deer, wild boar, sloth bear and of course monkeys! Many of the guesthouses arrange jeep trips here.

The Ancient City of Polonnarawu is another place. This ancient city can be reached from Sigiriya in a day trip if you go by scooter or taxi. Much smaller than Anuradhapura, many people prefer Polonnarawu due to its compact ruins that are in good condition and less crowds. They are around Sigiriya is flat and forested and excellent to explore by bicycle or scooter. Take a trip to the friendly nearby town of Bakamuna for an authentic local lunch and on the way back follow by the outskirts of Minneriya National Park to see if you can spot those wild elephants without entering the park (Hettiarachchi).

### **ISSUES CAN BE SEEN AT SIGIRIYA**

The capital and the royal palace was abandoned after the king's death. It was used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century. Sigiriya today is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site. It is one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning. Sigiriya is famous for its palace ruins on top of a massive 200 meter high rock surrounded by the remains of an extensive network of gardens, reservoirs and other structures. The rock itself is a lava plug left over from an ancient long extinct volcano. Be prepared for a decent, energetic climb at this iconic Sri Lankan site. The climb up the rock and back down will take anywhere

from 1.5 hours to 3 hours. Sigiriya or Sinhagiri, (Lion Rock Sinhalese: සීගිරිය, Tamil: சிகிரியா, pronounced see-gi-ri-ya) is an ancient rock fortress located in the northern Matale District near the town of Dambulla in the Central Province, Sri Lanka (Bandaranayake, 1999). But it had to face some threats and risks (Indika, 2014).

- "Inscription helped to mobilize an international lobby to uphold conservation values. A recent example was the successful campaign to prevent the expansion of a major military airport in close proximity to the site."
- Urbanization of the buffer zone,
- Uncontrolled activity of vendors and guides,
- Pressure to increase visitor carrying capacity,
- Rainfall and other environmental damage,
- Natural decay of rock surfaces,
- Ongoing maintenance needs of the historic water system,
- Inadequate refuse management,
- Graffiti, Inadequate site information for visitors,
- Unauthorized development in the buffer zone is increasing,
- Have to beware the wild elephants. They are known to roam the area-especially at night-and they are usually not very friendly. Fatal accidents involving elephants are not uncommon in the area.
- Warrior bees on Sigiriya Rock.
- The appearance of cracks on some of the frescoes, signals an imminent danger to this world heritage site. In certain frescoes the original paint appears to be peeling off. This is more evident in a fresco which was not subject to the waste oil attack some time back.
- The Mirror wall is constantly subject to droppings of the swallows who nest inside the caves of the rock fortress.

- Making matters worse the large number of visitors who flock to this site walk on the ancient brick walls flouting the many prohibition notices put up within the site for preservation of this site.
- The use of powerful flash lights from the highly sophisticated cameras by both local and foreign visitors at the gallery of the frescoes continues regardless despite the inconvenience to those who visit the site to view the frescoes admiring its beauty and texture.
- Incidents of misbehavior by people under the influence of liquor had also being a major concern for the security personnel.
- It appears that the security provided at this site is inadequate leaving much to be desired. The authorities seems to be only concerned with the issue of admission tickets and checking them and not delegating responsibility in maintaining this historical site.
- The rock fortress is now under threat as nearly 15 acres of forest cover of the sanctuary has been cleared for luxury hotel constructions.
- A numbers of trees which were older than 200 to 400 years were destroyed during the deforestation.
- Destruction under the name of development takes place all around the country to which the environmentalists and the conservationists were unhappy of the plans of government as all projects in common, destroy the nature and the archeological values of them.

## **HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AT SIGIRIYA**

Currently all Heritage faced to threats of consumption. Therefore it can be destroyed. So we have to get an action to protect Heritage with its original quality. Hence we have to manage Heritage with managing principals. The protection of this Heritage cannot based upon

the application of techniques alone. It requires a wider basis of professional and scientific knowledge and skills. Some elements of the heritage a component of architectural structures letdown restoration of monuments and the other element of Heritage constitute part of the living traditions of indigenous people and of such sites and monuments the participation of local cultural groups is essential for their protection and preservation.

For this and other reason the protection of the heritage must base upon effective collaboration between professionals from many disciplines. It also requires the corporation of government authorities, academic researches, private or public enterprise and the general public. Therefore, lays down principles relating to the different aspects of heritage management. This include the responsibilities of public authorities and legislators, principles relating to the professional performance of the processes of in inventorisation, survey, excavation, documentation, research, maintenance, conservation, preservation, reconstruction, information, presentation, public access and use of the heritage and the qualification of professional involved in the protection of the heritage. Reconstructing, endowing and protect and all are included in Heritage management (Feilden, Bernard &Jokilehto, 1993).

It had a great history. The Secret monuments of two shrines belonged to Ramesas. The second, the treasure to ancient Egypt Civilization, Egypt governments plan was to expand Aswan high Dam International concern was focused on the topic whether is it impossible to survive past with in the present. After UNESCO launched and international safeguarding campaign Abu Simbel and Philae temples were dismantled, moved to dry ground and reassembled. The campaign cost about US dollars 80 million. Half of which was donated by some 50 countries. This program led successfully for the other safeguarding campaigns such as saving Venice

and its lagoons in Italy, archaeological ruins at Mohenjo Daro in Pakistan and restoring the Borobudur temple and compounds in Indonesia. That is international history of heritage management (SLAAED, 1994).

Heritage management principles provide a guiding framework for excellence in managing heritage properties. They set the standard and the scope for the way places should be managed in order to best protect heritage values for the generation ahead.

Policies for the protection of the Heritage should constitute an integral component of policy relating to land use, development and planning as well as of Cultural, environmental, and Educational policy policies for the protection of The Heritage should be kept under continual review so that they stay up to date. Creation of reserves should form part of such policies. The protection of the heritage should be integrated into planning policies at international, national, regional and local levels(Rathnayak, 2014).

Active participation by the general public must form part of policies for the protection of the heritage. This is essential when the Heritage of indigenous people is involved. Participation must be based upon access to the knowledge necessary for decision making. The provision of information to the general public is therefore an important element in integrated protection.

The protection of the heritage should be considered as a moral obligation upon all human beings. It is also a collective public responsibility. This obligation must be acknowledged through relevant legislation and the provision of adequate funds for the supporting programs necessary for effective heritage management. The heritage is common to all human society and it should therefore be the duty of every country to ensure that adequate funds are available for its protection.

Legislation should afford protection to the heritage that is appropriate to the needs, history and traditions of each country and region, providing for in site protection and research needs. Legislation should be based on the concept of the heritage as the heritage of all humanity and of group of people and not restricted to any individual person or nation. Legislation should forbid the destruction, degradation or alternation through changes of any archaeological site or management or to their surroundings without the consent of the relevant authority. Legislation requires and makes provision for the proper maintenance, management and conservation of the heritage. Adequate legal sanctions should be prescribed in respect of violations of heritage legislation. The principle should be also established in legislation that development schemes should be designed in such a way as to minimize their impact upon the heritage (loysius, 2013).

The site is managed by Central Cultural Fund (CCF) under the mandate of Archaeological Survey Department (ASD). CCF contracts academic and technical experts for consultancy services and government departments are engaged for project management and implementation. CCF manages its own funds and generates funding locally and internationally. A Board of Governors including ASD, CCF, local government officials and religious interests meets twice per month ( UNESCO - ICOMOS, 2010).

The Sigiriya Heritage Foundation Act, 1998, should be established and implemented. A Master Plan is awaiting fund for implementation.

The Plan focuses on development pressures in the surrounding area and seeks to "harness economic development to achieve the objective of conserving and protecting the heritage values of the site." CCF has a Project Manager and technical team on site, as well as

artifact conservators, draughtsman and photographers. Staffing levels are considered adequate. The need to train a new generation of researchers, conservators and heritage managers is recognized.

A small grant from the Government is augmented by income from visitor admission charges. However income is shared between the sites of the Cultural Triangle and fluctuates depending on national tourism. Funding is considered inadequate. No figures supplied. The property has benefited from the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign, WFP, and the governments of West Germany, Sweden and USA. International Assistance from WHF has been approved as follows:

- (I) 1989, US\$33,500 Training Assistance, Cultural Triangle.
- (II) 1989, US\$25,500 Technical Assistance, Cultural Triangle.

Heritage management principles provide a guiding framework for excellence in managing heritage properties. They set the standard and the scope for the way places should be managed in order best protect heritage values for the generation ahead. Policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage should constitute an integral component of policies relating to land use, development and planning as well as of cultural, environmental and educational policies. The policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage should be kept under continual review, so that they stay up to date.

Creation of archaeological reserves should form part of such policies. The protection of the archaeological heritage should be integrated into planning policies at international, national, regional and local levels. Active participation by the general public must form part of policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage. This is essential where participation must be

based upon access to the knowledge necessary for decision making. The provision of information to the general public is therefore an important element in integrated protection (WCPA, 2003).

The protection of the archaeological of the archaeological heritage should be considered as a moral obligation upon all human beings. It is also a collective public responsibility. This obligation must be acknowledged through relevant legislation and the provision of adequate funds for the supporting programs necessary for effective heritage management. The archaeological heritage is common to all human society and it should therefore be the duty of every country to ensure that adequate funds are available for this protection to the archaeological heritage that afford protection to the archaeological heritage that is appropriate to the needs, history and traditions of each country and region, providing for in site protection and research needs.

Legislation should be based on the concept of the archaeological heritage as the heritage of all humanity and of groups of people, and not restricted to any individual person or nation. Legislation should forbid the destruction, degradation or alteration though changes of any archaeological site or monument or to their surroundings without the consent of the relevant archaeological authority. Legislation should require and make provision for the proper maintenance, management and conservation of the archaeological heritage. Adequate legal sanctions should be prescribed in respect of violations of archaeological heritage legislation. The principle should also be established in legislation that development schemes should be designed in such a way as to minimize their impact upon the archaeological heritage.

Heritage management plan is the special one fundamentals of a heritage management plan

including the integration of tourism aspects guaranteeing the sustainable preservation of heritage and sites and representing at the same time a chance for economic and social development at the local level.

In heritage management planning process, these key steps are as important as the product. First one is agree the scope and purpose of the heritage management plan, second one is collecting information and the other one is describing the property and assess its significance, agree baseline condition, set aim and objectives to implement the undertakings, develop a work program, monitor progress against the program and the last one is review at five yearly intervals.

There are some strategies for heritage management. First and foremost, we have to welcome the visitor and fulfill the requirements. After, we have to maintain the heritage site. Following waste management system, Gardening, conservation and preservation methods, and adequate financial grants for the maintenance and finally educated the visitors to keep environment in clean. Then define the heritage and the other thing is preventing from vandalism lastly managing the visitors.

The steps are reducing visitor pressure, introducing optional routes promoting minor attractions, assure security and safety of the visitors, providing infrastructure facilities, and educate the visitors and signage. This is the heritage management strategies circle.

At the present situation of the world, we have to care about heritage management. Before year 2000, Sri Lanka did not have any idea about Archaeological heritage management if the modern world. But in year 2000, a sentence about archaeological heritage management which included in Archaeological Audience act. After October in 2000, it had an edition.

According to that edition, they designed Archaeological monetary board. Director of Archaeology Department, Director of Central Cultural Fund and Director of Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology were members of that monetary board.

At presenting a development project, we have to inform the council by presenting extensive report. It included the location and extent of the land, situation, nature of the land and ancient value, what are they introducing to the land? What is the time period of development project and the last one is outcomes and benefits. After those processing methods, monetary board submitted it to an agent board. After they study about the report and compiled activities which are useful to complete that development project. It called as Damage Approval Observation. After those steps, we can see international intercession for archaeological heritage management.

The government has to make rules and regulations to protect them and give punishment as tax fees. They have to involve some projects to maintain them at high-level. And also they want to take them into international market with its authenticity. As a developing country we haven't long term plans with political power. And a government does not work according to the past government plans because of the political instability. So they have to create new long term plans which are very rich with laws.

Our heritage goes to down stairs with low concerns. They not issue money to reconstructions and maintenance of archaeological heritage. Political leaders work with their own ideas. They do not concern about environment, natural effect and others. So, our country need political stability, master year plans, long-term plans, investments of government etc.

In economical side, we can introduce measures to attract high-end tourists and inform them, develop a marketing strategy emphasizing the creation and sustaining of a positive image of the site as a substantive and well established tourist destination offering facilities an experiences that are distinct heritage, establish a domestic tourism strategy to expand the existing product base and encourage a greater level of holiday movements. In addition to pilgrim movements, emphasize the environmental, social and cultural aspects to ensure that development of the tourism sector is sustainable that it meets the needs of the local population as well as international and domestic tourists and that the future potential is protected and enhanced.

Heritage management is a subject of growing importance as destinations complete to provide the highest quality of experience for visitors and to manage the impacts of tourism on host communities and environment.

To complete effectively, heritage site have to deliver wonderful experiences and excellent value to visitors. The business of tourism is complex and fragmented and from the time that visitors arrive in the destinations, until they leave the quality of their experiences, including a range of public and private and services, community interactions, environment and hospitality. Delivering excellent value will depend on many organizations working together in unity heritage management calls for a coalition of these different interests to work towards a common goal to ensure the viability and integrity of their destination now and for the future.

People nowadays have dedicated their much time for visiting cultural sites admiring heritage value of those cultural sites. The most significant feature of world heritage concept is heritage are considered as most valuable assists not only for nationally but also internationally.

Heritage site should be preserved maintained protected for both present and future generations of the world. Hence the management of cultural heritage sites and artifacts needs to be considered carefully. Fundamentals of heritage management plan including the integration of tourism aspects guarantee the sustainable preservation of heritage and sites and representing at the same time a chance for economic and social development at the local level. Some conventions about the heritage management which observance at international level Such as convents for the protection of the cultural presentation the event of armed conflicts which named as Hogue convenience in 1959, convenience on the means of prohibiting the illicit import of and the transfer the ownership of the cultural heritages in 1970 and convention conserving the protection of the cultural and natural heritages in 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1972.

Define the heritage site and interpretation also important thing of heritage management. The cultural heritage site should be interpreted according to the value of the site in all aspects of either archaeologically, religiously, historically or architecturally. The beginning, expansion and the significant incidents related to the site should be included in the site definition. Always site definition should be in an attractive manner in three main languages in Sri Lanka and short form.

We have to provide something to bring the images of the site towards the visitors there are many methods. For examples leaflets, brochures, short films, reported films, post cards, magazines, souvenirs and other usages of printed and electronic Medias. We can use these items as protecting systems of the site. From these methods, all are known about the site and they prevent from vandalism. All the vandalism activities done by the visitors should be reported and presented with those records. So, we have to educate the visitor regarding the

acts, commandment and rules and legislations against those who violate and rules. In addition, we have to edit rules and regulations, update and increase the tax fees and maximize the punishments. Special concerning on photography and videos is very essential for the heritage's value and its authenticity. We can inform the visitor with notices, cutouts, leaflets, tickets and video clips.

Site maintenance is a Special element of heritage management. It includes waste management system, gardening, conservation and preservation methods, and adequate financial grants for the maintenance and educates the visitors to keep environment in clean. This system applicable for site managers. They have responsibilities to maintain the site at high level. Weak attitudes of the visitors and weak management system of the site managers are influenced to low level of site maintenance.

Waste management is also valuable function of the site. Recycling system is the best system for manage site and get some benefits. Gardening is also influence to beauty of the site. We have to maintain the weeding, planting, watering etc. We can organize workshops to clean environment and protect heritage, recycling programs like that. Sigiriya site area have a threat of wild animals. So, we have to use some techniques to protect heritage and preserve it for the future generations.

Conservation and preservation methods are implementing at the site which is done by specialist of conservation with the help of public and private sector. Use the fund and conserve it in a correct way, must be influence to its duration.

So, specially concern about the financial grants for the maintenance. They can take it from government, CCF, Private sector, donations and the site funds. However, we can't guarantee visitor with a clean environment. Therefore,

always educate the visitors to keep environment clean by putting dustbins, notices, signage and inform by people. Finally, we can do good site maintenance with the collection of these steps.

In Sigiriya site, the authorities who can implement these things as follows,

- Allocate a minimum hectares existing land area set apart to tourist hotel development for each developer bearing in mind that only two hotels covering an area of minimum hectares has been utilized.
- Allocate one hectare of additional land towards the south of the rock without disturbing forest cover and irrigable land. All buildings should be single storied type and roofline should not be higher than the light line drawn from the top of the rocks.
- Allow tourist development along the highway leading to Sigiriya from the east west highway of Sri Lanka.
- To identify a special are in the Sigiriya new village and along the main access road mentioned above to provide facilities to local tourists such as pilgrim-rests, recreational day visitor facilities and youth hostels.
- Follow guidelines before any approval is given for new hotel projects.
- Carryout environmental impact assessment prior to the construction of any hotels
- Create a new planning committee that consisting members from Department of Archaeology, Association of Group Tour Agents, Central Cultural Fund, Central Environmental Authority, Ceylon Tourist Board (SLTDA, SLTPB, SLITHM, SLCB), District Secretary-Matale, Divisional Secretary-Dambulla, Tourist Hotels association and Urban Development Authority, should grant approval.
- Design concept should be cluster type, roofs of public areas should be provided



- with foliage in between to prevent the seen from the top of the rock covered with tiles
- Should only be single storied structures and the maximum height of the public area.
  - Color and texture should be specially approved by the Planning Committee.
  - Safety regulations should be followed pertaining to fire, heavy vehicles, excessive traffic, etc.
  - Natural water reservations should be protected and cared for
  - All plans and designs for infrastructure facilities should be approved in order to have them buried as far as possible.
  - Noise, smells, waste water, sewage, chemical, solid waste, storm water pollutions should be brought down to conformity levels.
  - Fishing, shooting, attire type of sports should be avoided.
  - Rearing animals within hotel premises should have prior approval
  - Food habits that are sensitive to the cultural and religious practices of the community should be avoided.
  - All designs of fences or security barriers in terms of their materials, constructions, color and texture should have planning approval.
  - Any hoarding to be displayed should obtain planning approval.
  - A minimum of 2/3 of the ground area should be left as open space
  - All garden layout plans, swimming pools, garden furniture, watch out pavilions, towers, etc. should obtain planning approval.
  - All designs of access roads, foot paths, interior link path ways, parking area, garages, paving details should obtain planning approval.
  - Neon lighting for display and outdoor lighting will not be permitted.
  - Any change in guidelines stated in above item 5 should be referred to the main committee.
  - Land falling within the 400 meters boundary limits stipulated in the Antiquities Ordinance in the hotel development zone should only be utilized as open and green areas with proper landscaping that would be in harmony with the monuments located closely.
  - Tourist Board to process all applications for hotel development in consultation with the Planning Committee.
  - Formulate and implement a comprehensive development plan for to provide the preservation and regulatory development of areas and resources in an around Sigiriya.
  - Introduce land use zoning, regulation of developments, and detail buildings and environmental standards to regulate development.
  - Promote activities which create further attraction of tourists.
  - Provide employment opportunities for the local population both directly and indirectly in agriculture, industries, etc. and create favorable condition to sell their products.
  - Provide alternative employment opportunities for surplus labour force in traditional villages in the new sectors such as highland farming, domestic industries, folk arts, commerce and services.
  - Make available basic facilities to "Purana Villages" to improve their living standards.
  - Provide a link between the Sigiriya Cultural Complex and "Purana Villages" in a manner that will not merely bring about some economic advantages to traditional villages but to avoid undesirable social impact of tourism development.
  - Provide planned urban centers to cater to the tourism and other development activities as well as the other public and

- community facilities to the urban population who depend on such activities.
- Provide basic visitor facilities are available on site; accommodation; domestic airport and railway station are within reach of the site.
  - Priority is to provide a visitor information Centre and museum with special site guides.
  - A Sustainable Tourism Master Plan is in preparation in conjunction with the Tourist Board. Inscription has had a positive impact on visitor numbers and generated funding for the site.
  - Risk preparedness plans focus on visitor safety and site security.
  - There is a 3-phase plan for the re-location of unauthorized settlers by mutual consent.
  - Establishment of the Heritage Foundation will enhance co-ordination between relevant agencies.
  - Archaeological Survey Department (ASD) and Central Cultural Fund (CCF) officials hold monthly site meetings with representatives of the Departments of Wildlife Conservation and Forestry, Urban Development Authority and regional councils to monitor progress.
  - It is proposed to boost this process through independent annual technical audits and periodic peer-reviews.
  - There is a need for equipment to monitor encroachments of the buffer zone, and for renewal of the site fencing.
  - Provide for the preservation and conservation of archaeological, cultural and natural environment in and around Sigiriya.
  - Develop and promote the economic potential of Sigiriya as a cultural and tourist Centre, depicting its status as a World Heritage City.
  - Conserve and protect traditional agricultural patterns of village community around Sigiriya.
  - Improve the standard of living of the settlers in "Purana Villages"
  - Encourage multi-disciplinary research into socio-economic, ecological and archaeological aspects of Sigiriya and its environs.
  - In sigiriya site have to provide clear path on the top of the mountain.
  - Have to prevent Sigiri frescos from flash lights. So, increase the law level and punishments.
  - Protect the walls, graffiti, and bricks from tampering and touching. We can introduce special sheos for visitors.
  - Promote minner attractions to reduce the visitor pressure and manage the visitors in a correct way. We can move one group for a museum and another group for site.
  - Specially concern about garbage. Check the baggage and prohibited the polythine at the site.
  - Effective enforcement of existing laws through a zoning plan.
  - Define the areas to be conserved.
  - Formulation of regulations governing conservation and development.
  - Establishment of a mechanism to implement the zoning plan and to administer regulations.
  - Provide infrastructure and supporting facilities through public investment.
  - Increase the tax levy imposed on the tourist entering Sigiriya Archaeological Reserve.
  - Allocate lands in the area proposed for development to private developers for tourism based activities both foreign and local, commercial development, housing, etc. and to collect a market lease or rent.

Policies are very important to manage the site. The basis to formulate development policies under this plan is to re-orient the economic base to promote desirable development by disregarding destructive activities in the area. Conservation and preservation of

archaeological monuments and artifacts, wilderness landscape and water resources was to be restructured in the area by providing alternative suitable locations for other socio-economic activities.

The major aspects considered in formulating development proposals are basically attributed to conservation and preservation character and to promote urban development character. Conservation and preservation proposals are-1 Conservation and preservation of cultural heritage 2 Conservation and preservation of natural heritage.

The Guidelines and regulations was prepared to control the development in the Sigiriya heritage City area in order to conserve and preserve the archaeological, architectural, cultural and environmental character of the monuments and the surrounding vicinity in relation to the built environment (WTO,2007).

Management should be strengthened by implementing the Sigiriya Heritage Foundation Act. This is foreseen to be achieved by 2005. Assistance from the WHF may be needed for establishing the visitor Centre, digital archives and for funding community development, poverty alleviation and the relocation of residents.

## **CONCLUSION**

The archaeological heritage is a resource which can be used to gain knowledge and understanding of the past. The archaeological heritage is therefore of great cultural and scientific importance. So, archaeological heritage management is very valuable process for our uniqueness of country or nation or whole world one day.

The authorities responsible in protecting these sites, mainly the Department of Archaeology and the Central Cultural Fund have realized the importance of protecting the environments of

these sites in order to protect the heritage values. They joined hand with the Authorities who are responsible for the controlled development in the country, namely-Urban development Authority and the National Physical Planning Department, and has formulated development plans together with regulations in order to develop the areas around the World Heritage Sites without hindering the values of the Heritage city.

However it is not a single thing which had many more steps around them. So, we can get overall protection by using heritage management plan of Sigiriya. And always have to implement protection individually. Sigiriya in a Rural Environment in order to present that controlling the developments of Buffer Zone are very much important in protecting the Values of the World Heritage Sites.

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