

## Recommendations of the Third Expert Working Group on the Preservation of the Bamiyan Site

Tokyo, 18–20 December 2004\*

### Activities regarding the safeguarding of the fragments of the Buddha statues

1. In 2005, the securing of fragments by the ICOMOS team should be continued at both niches. As soon as all the fragments are identified, documented and stored accordingly, the next steps should be decided by the Afghan authorities, assisted by international experts.

2. The ICOMOS conservation concept, in accordance with the relevant international guidelines (Charter of Venice etc), should be implemented. All fragments, sculptured and non-sculptured, should be preserved.

3. ICOMOS is encouraged to propose appropriate ways to conserve and to present the fragments. The technical possibilities of an anastylosis should be considered.

4. The Ministry of Information and Culture should reinforce cooperation with ICOMOS in the implementation of the conservation measures, also with regards to the facilitation of local administrative procedures.

5. ICOMOS should continue the important <sup>14</sup>C analysis to date the plaster surface of the statues. The collaboration with the <sup>14</sup>C dating analysis for mural paintings by NRICP/Nagoya University is recommended for the further development of the study on the chronology of the Bamiyan site.

### Consolidation of the cliffs and niches

Priorities in 2005, as part of a more general stabilisation plan of niches and cliffs, should be:

### Small Buddha

1. The emergency consolidation measures on the western part of the niche of the Small Buddha should be completed, notably:

- a) A monitoring system of the most relevant discontinuities has to be installed and should be working in real time;
- b) A temporary support of iron/wood beams able to support any lateral deformation of the pillar-shaped instable fragment should be installed;
- c) Temporary steel ropes binding the pillar-shaped instable fragment and fixing it in a stable place of the cliff should be installed;
- d) Passive anchors located below and above this critical fragment should be installed, as well as a set of passive nails to connect the pillar-shaped fragment internally;
- e) At the top external part of the niche of the Small Buddha, long passive anchors should be installed and grouted.

### Large Buddha

2a) Complete identification and stabilisation of minor but unstable areas of the Large Buddha niches is required;

Prevention of water infiltration

b) At the Western Great Buddha site, water infiltration should be prevented and cracks should be grouted and filled.

Back of both niches

3. The fragile areas of the back of both niches should be safeguarded in cooperation with the ICOMOS team as soon as possible. Passive anchors and nails should be installed at the bottom of these areas.

\* Abridged version without conservation of mural painting, archaeological projects, preparation of management plan and master plan, restoration of traditional architecture/creation of a site museum. For full text see <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-343-1.doc>.



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