



My Son. Photo by © Global Heritage Fund

My Son, Vietnam

Last Vestiges of the Champa Kingdom

Site Significance

My Son Sanctuary is one of Vietnam's only archaeological sites to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site and was inhabited from the 4th- through the 15th century AD. Located in central Vietnam in one of the country's least developed provinces, a large majority of My Son's exquisite architecture was destroyed by aerial bombing during a single week of the Vietnam War.

Preservation by Design®

Project Accomplishments

Working in partnership with the Leric Institute, UNESCO World Heritage Centre Asia Pacific and the Vietnamese Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee Centre for Conservation of Heritage and Monuments, GHF provided support for urgently needed stabilization, archaeological documentation, planning, site conservation and training to help save the last remaining temples of My Son Sanctuary, Vietnam.

Planning

A detailed topographic map of the entire site was produced helping to plan for zoning and identifying the protected area, buffer zone and land-mined areas. Then mapping of all the buildings was done in the surveyed area. Campaigns of geophysical prospect have been carried-out to localize buried remains and dig trial trenches to work out the stratigraphic sequence in order to produce a more correct chronology.

Project Partnerships

- UNESCO Asia Project
- Danang Province Cultural Heritage Committee
- The Leric Institute, Leric Foundation
- Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee Centre for Conservation of Heritage and Monuments



Threats

- Unrepaired damage from the Vietnam War
- Looting
- Deterioration from Exposure
- Vegetation Overgrowth
- Flooding

Completed Date

2006

Conservation Science

Conservation efforts at My Son were focused on the scientific conservation of the most endangered monuments of Group E (especially E7, the Library) and Group G, as well as providing an intensive training program for on-site Vietnamese conservators and archaeologists.

Community

GHF established a formal two-year education and outreach program for Vietnam's World Heritage in Young Hands program at selected schools in Hoi An Ancient Town near My Son and in Quang Nam Province which were visited by over 900 Grand Circle Travel customers on their tours in 2005.

Recent Accomplishments

- The preparation of a Master Conservation Plan for the extant archaeological features
- Conservation of Temple E7 (the Library)
- Additional conservation of structures in Groups E and G
- Conservation training for Vietnamese workers
- Support for the Vietnam World Heritage in Young Hands Program



Detail carving of deities. Photo by © Global Heritage Fund



Geophysical prospecting and mapping of My Son led by The Leric Institute. Photo by © Leric Institute



My Son On-Site Museum. Photo by © Leric Institute

My Son was once a veritable forest of towers, many of which were destroyed by the ravages of time and war. This unique site is now in a state of significant disrepair, urgently requiring conservation efforts.



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