

# LUMBINI

The birthplace of Lord Buddha in Nepal.  
Completing the Kenzo Tange Master Plan





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## Introduction

The purpose of this brochure is to show the key components that require assistance and financial support from both national and international stakeholders for the completion of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan in Lumbini, Nepal, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Completion of the Master Plan is needed to fully develop Lumbini into a major tourism and pilgrimage centre.

Lumbini and its surrounding areas have been sites of pilgrimage for centuries. The archaeological remains in the Greater Lumbini Area, some of which were excavated in the last century, not only reveal the exact location where Lord Buddha was born but also provide testimony of pilgrimages dating back to the 3rd century BC. Periodic efforts have been made at both the national and international level to turn Lumbini into a major site for tourism and pilgrimage for Buddhists from around the

world. However, this vision is yet to be fully realized, and many of the locations in the Greater Lumbini Area are yet to undergo archaeological investigations and excavations.

In this brochure, other specific areas for which support is needed for the development of Lumbini are also identified, including redesigning the Mayadevi Temple, carrying out archaeological investigations in the Greater Lumbini Area, establishing an International Documentation Centre for Lumbini, and preserving the Ramagrama site (which is believed to have the only unopened stupa that contains Lord Buddha's mortal remains).

The development of Lumbini is an enormous undertaking involving expertise and support from a wide range of people. We invite you to join us on our journey to preserve and develop the sacred sites in and around Lumbini for current and future generations.



UNESCO/Dhan K. Limbu

## About Lumbini



UNESCO/Axel Plathe

## History

Lord Buddha was born as Prince Siddhartha Gautama of the Shakya Kingdom in the gardens of Lumbini in 623 BC. His journey in this world began in the gardens of Lumbini when his mother Queen Mayadevi was travelling from Tilaurakot, the capital of the Shakya Kingdom, to her family home in Devdaha to give birth. It was here that the newborn infant took his first seven steps toward the East beginning a path to enlightenment which would change humankind. Later in his life, Lord Buddha advised his followers to visit four sacred places relevant to his life, one of which is his birthplace.

The veracity of Lumbini as the birthplace of Lord Buddha is well supported by historical references that date back to 249 BC when Emperor Asoka erected pillars with

inscriptions in Lumbini, Gotihawa and Niglihawa, to commemorate his visits. The inscriptions on the Asoka Pillar in Lumbini marks this location as the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Other pilgrims and travellers throughout the centuries, most notably Seng-tsai and Fa-hsien (4th century AD) and Hsuan-tsang (7th century AD), made references to the temples, stupas and other structures in and around Lumbini in their writings. In the early 14th century, King Ripu Malla also left evidence of his pilgrimage in Lumbini through an additional inscription on the Asoka Pillar. In 1896, archaeologist Anton Führer, and the Governor of Palpa in Nepal, Khadga Shamsher, rediscovered the Asoka Pillar in Lumbini. In 1997, UNESCO declared Lumbini to be a World Heritage property.



## UNESCO World Heritage property

Lumbini was inscribed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage properties in 1997 as the place where Gautama Buddha was born in 623 BC.

The criteria for inscription in the World Heritage list are defined in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. "As the birthplace of the Lord Buddha, testified by the inscription on the Asoka Pillar, the sacred area in Lumbini is one of the most holy and significant places for one of the world's great religions" (Criterion iii). "The archaeological remains of the Buddhist viharas (monasteries) and stupas (memorial shrines) from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD, provide important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centres from a very early period" (Criterion vi). The values therefore encompass the property to be both an archaeological site as well as a place of pilgrimage.

The boundaries of the site cover the central area around the Asokan pillar of a size of 130 by 150 metres with a buffer zone designated as the remaining area within the water body as designed by the architect Kenzo Tange in his Master Plan for Lumbini. The surrounding outer sacred garden is defined as a "wooded area" in the Kenzo Tange Master Plan.

The Government of Nepal, as a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, is establishing a management system to ensure the safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value of Lumbini from any factors arising in and around the property, including the impact of the growing numbers of visitors to Lumbini.

## Lumbini today

The number of visitors to Lumbini has risen steadily over the years, creating an urgent need to fully implement the Kenzo Tange Master Plan, including components geared toward providing facilities, services and accommodation for pilgrims and tourists.

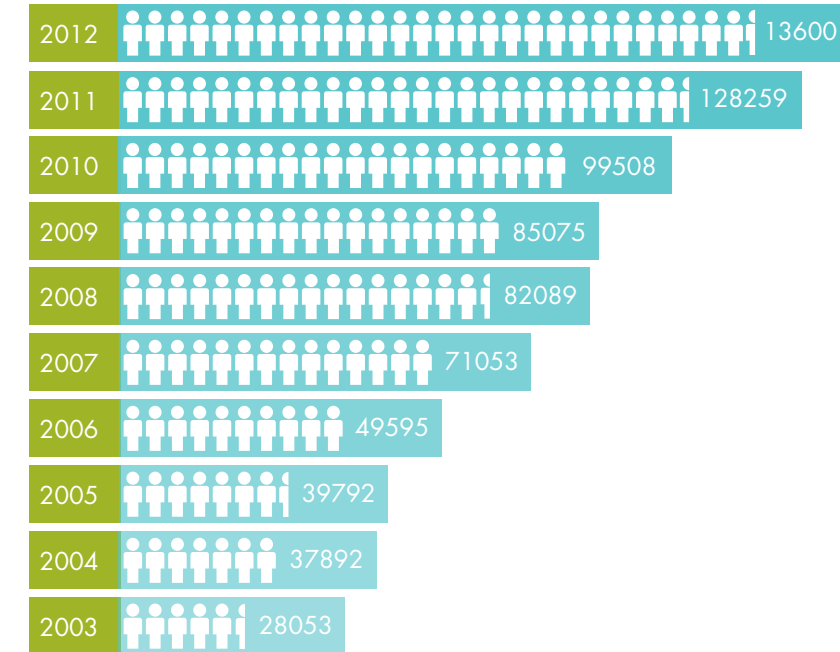
At present, other sites relevant to Lord Buddha's life in the Greater Lumbini Area also need to undergo archaeological investigations and surveys for a better understanding and mapping of the layout of the archaeological complex before an infrastructure master

plan can be developed for some of the sites to cater to increasing numbers of visitors. Some of the historical monuments and remains in and around Lumbini, including the interior of the Mayadevi Temple, are at risk because of air pollution, degradation caused by time, lack of proper maintenance and increasing numbers of visitors.

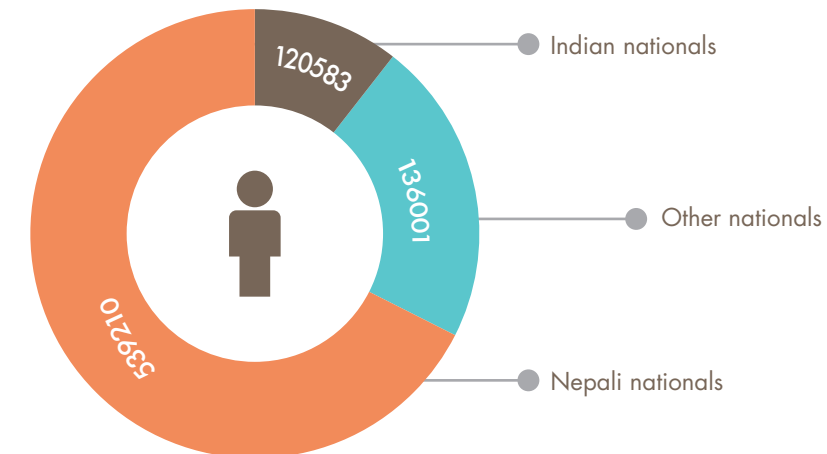
The areas of support that are needed for developing and conserving Lumbini, as identified in this brochure, address many concerns including those related to the growing numbers of visitors to this sacred site.

## Visitors

### Trend in number of visitors (excluding Nepali and Indian nationals)



### Visitors in 2012



Source of the figures in the graph and chart: Lumbini Development Trust



Asoka Pillar



Inscriptions on the Asoka Pillar



King Mahendra with UN Secretary-General U Thant

## 623 BC - 1900 AD

- **623 BC:** Prince Siddhartha Gautama, who later became Lord Buddha, is born in Lumbini.
- **249 BC:** Emperor Asoka visits Lumbini and erects the Asoka Pillar with Pali language inscriptions in the Brahmi script to pay homage to Lord Buddha's birthplace.
- **350-375 AD:** Monk Seng-tsai belonging to the Qin Dynasty makes a pilgrimage to Lumbini and writes accounts of his visit.
- **399-413 AD:** Traveller Fa-hsien visits Lumbini and describes the place where Lord Buddha's mother, Queen Mayadevi, gave birth to Prince Siddhartha and where the newborn was bathed.
- **636 AD:** Traveller Hsuan-tsang visits Lumbini. He describes Lumbini as "a deserted place, and wild animals roamed around enough to warn off travellers."
- **1312 AD:** Ripu Malla, King of the Malla Kingdom of Kathmandu, visits Lumbini. He is the last visitor to leave evidence of his visit prior to the site remaining in oblivion for centuries.
- **1896:** General Khadga Shamsher, the Governor of Tansen, organizes an expedition together with Anton

Führer. The Asoka Pillar, which marks Lord Buddha's birthplace, is re-discovered.

- **1899:** Excavation by Purna Chandra Mukherji who discovers the main piece of the Nativity Sculpture. Two additional pieces of the sculpture are found and joined together some 85 years later by Tara Nanda Misra.

## 1901 - 1970

- **1932-1939:** Excavation work by General Keshar Shamsher exposes many stupas and monasteries.
- **1956:** King Mahendra visits Lumbini and proposes steps for Lumbini's development at the Fourth Assembly of the World Fellowship of Buddhists.
- **1956:** The Ancient Monument Preservation Act gives the Department of Archaeology the authority to "preserve ancient monuments, control the trade in archaeological objects, excavate ancient monuments sites, and acquire and preserve ancient monuments and archaeological, historical or artistic objects".
- **March 1959:** UN Secretary-General Daag Hammarskjöld visits Lumbini.
- **February 1962:** Devela Mitra excavates the base of the Asoka Pillar.



Meeting of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini



Kenzo Tange, second from left, during his visit to Lumbini



Nativity Sculpture

- **April 1967:** UN Secretary-General U Thant visits Lumbini, and initiates international support to develop Lumbini for pilgrimage and tourism.
- **1970:** The International Committee for the Development of Lumbini is formed in New York under the chairmanship of Nepal's Permanent Representative to the UN.
- **1970:** The Government establishes Lumbini Development Committee which later becomes Lumbini Development Trust in 1985.

## 1971 - 1980

- **1970-1971:** Babu Krishna Rijal locates and excavates an area which matches the description of the Lumbini Village as inscribed in the Asoka Pillar.
- **1972:** The Advisory Panel for the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini requests that Kenzo Tange prepare a Master Plan for Lumbini.
- **1972-85:** Excavation activities by the Department of Archaeology.
- **1978:** The Government and the UN approve the Kenzo Tange Master Plan. The implementation of the plan is scheduled to be completed by 1985.

## 1981 - 1990

- **1981:** UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim visits Lumbini.
- **1985:** The Lumbini Development Trust Act is passed and Lumbini Development Trust is delegated to implement the Lumbini Development Plan.
- **March 1989:** UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar visits Lumbini.

## 1991 - 2000

- **1992-1995:** Excavation work by the Department of Archaeology, Lumbini Development Trust and the Japanese Buddhist Federation during which the Marker Stone, set by Emperor Asoka to mark the exact location of the birth of Lord Buddha, is discovered.
- **1996:** The archaeological remains of the ancient Shakya Kingdom in Tilaurakot (Nawalparasi district) and the relic stupa of Lord Buddha in Ramagrama (Kapilvastu district), both closely related to Lord Buddha's life, are included in the Tentative World Heritage list.
- **1997:** Lumbini is included on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



Marker Stone

- **1998:** The World Buddhist Summit declares Lumbini to be the "Fountain of World Peace".
- **1999:** UNDP commissions a Vision and Scoping Mission led by Young Hoon Kwaak and Abelardo Brenes to develop the idea of Lumbini as the "Fountain of World Peace".

### After 2001

- **2002:** The Government establishes the Gautam Buddha International Peace Award. Tadatashi Akiba, the mayor of Hiroshima, and Tomihisa Taue, the mayor of Nagasaki, are the first recipients of the award in 2011 in recognition of their contribution towards advocacy for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Each of the awardees are given USD 25,000.
- **2003:** The restored Mayadevi Temple opens to the public on 16 May 2003 to celebrate the birthday of Lord Buddha.
- **2004:** The Second World Buddhist Summit declares Lumbini as a "World Peace City".
- **2005:** Last meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini (16 September) on the sidelines of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General



Restoration work by UNESCO/Japanese-Funds-in-Trust project

- **2008:** UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon visits Lumbini.
- **2010:** Asian Development Bank begins South Asia Tourism Infrastructure Development Project which includes upgrading the the Gautam Buddha Airport close to Lumbini.
- **2010:** A three-year UNESCO/Japanese-Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World's Cultural Heritage project entitled "Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha" is launched to address conservation and management issues and challenges facing the World Heritage property.
- **2011:** The Greater Lumbini Development National Steering Committee is established by the Cabinet of Nepal with the mandate to develop a master plan for the Greater Lumbini Area while respecting the Kenzo Tange Master Plan and to garner international support for the development of Lumbini.
- **2012:** The government signs Memorandum of Understanding with Korea International Cooperation Agency for the preparation of a master plan for Lumbini World Peace City Preservation and Development project.
- **2012:** The government declares 2012 as "Visit Lumbini Year".

Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

## UN Secretaries-General in Lumbini

Lumbini has been a focus of interest for UN Secretaries-General. In March 1959, Dag Hammarskjöld visited Lumbini and made reference to Lord Buddha's birthplace in a poem, which was found in his journal entries in his New York apartment after his death. U Thant declared that his visit to Lumbini in April 1967 was one of the

most important days of his life, and he set into motion UN initiatives for the development of Lumbini. Ban Ki-Moon visited Lumbini in November 2008, and since then has expressed his strong support for Lumbini's development on several occasions.



UN Archive

### Dag Hammarskjöld

#### Visit

March 1959

"Like glittering sunbeams  
The flute notes reach the gods  
In the birth grotto."



UN Archive

### U Thant

#### Visit

April 1967

Visit to Lumbini was "one of the most important days of my life"

"Since early 1968, various phases of development works have been carried out both by the Government of Nepal and by United Nations Organizations and the project has now reached a stage where financing from voluntary contributions will be needed before it can become a pilgrimage centre with adequate facilities for pilgrims and tourists. In this connection I would like also to express my personal appreciation to the Government of Nepal for the initiatives they have already taken. May I also express my sincere hope that both interested governments, individuals and private groups will make generous contributions in cash or kind to help in the implementation of what I consider to be a most worthy project."





## Kurt Waldheim

### Visit

February 1981

“Through the efforts of the Government of Nepal and with financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, a Master Plan has been completed by the Japanese architect Kenzo Tange. However, it is necessary to make these plans a reality. It is my hope, therefore, that government, private institutions and individuals will make generous contributions toward this most worthy undertaking.”



## Javier Perez de Cuellar

### Visit

March 1989

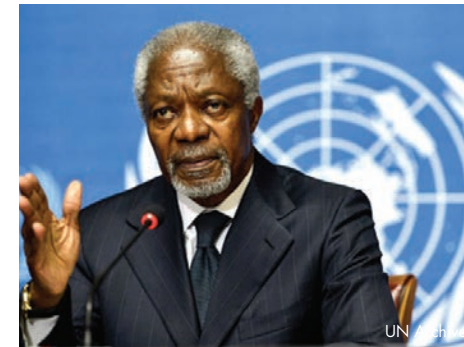
“Buddha’s message of compassion and devotion to the service of humanity is more relevant today than at any other time in history. Peace, understanding and a vision that transcends purely national boundaries are imperatives of our insecure nuclear age.”

“The United Nations is proud to have whole-heartedly supported this project from its inception. I wish to take this further opportunity to state that it will continue to play its parts in support of this undertaking which relates most closely to the spiritual and cultural heritage of humanity.”



## Boutros-Boutros Ghali

“The implementation of the Lumbini Master Plan is still in progress. I should therefore like to call on the international community, governments, private institutions and individuals to consider contributing to the cause of preserving the tradition of the Buddha - that of compassion and devotion to the service of humanity.”



## Kofi Annan

“As the most sacred place of pilgrimage for the world’s Buddhists, Lumbini provides yet another illustration of the inter-connectedness of all people, across borders and across time. As a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site, Lumbini reminds us how much the world’s religions can teach us, Buddhists and non-Buddhists, believers and non-believers alike. And let us applaud the commitment to tolerance that allows a Buddhist summit to be held in an officially Hindu country. The world could use many more such examples of religious harmony.”



## Ban Ki-moon

### Visit

November 2008

“I am awestruck by the beauty and profound significance of this site, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha. Being here, I am reminded of his amazing life journey from sheltered prince to founder of one of the world’s great religions. And I am moved by his example of voluntarily leaving behind comfortable circumstances to confront the painful realities of life and to help others overcome them. Above all, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, I am all the more inspired to work for peace throughout the world. I sincerely hope that we can learn from his lessons, from his teachings and his philosophy to bring peace, stability, harmony, reconciliation and friendship among people of different beliefs, different religions and cultures. This is exactly what human beings should promote and pursue for a better world, a more peaceful, more prosperous world.”



## Lumbini, the centre of a unique cultural landscape



UNESCO/Dhan K. Limbu

The Greater Lumbini Area includes the Rupandehi, Nawalparasi and Kapilvastu districts in the southern plains of western Nepal. The 5,260 sq km area, with a total population of 2,095,640, is home to many archaeological and religious sites relevant to Lord Buddha's life, including his birthplace Lumbini. Among

these sites, two are on the Tentative World Heritage list: Tilaurakot, the ancient capital of the Shakya Kingdom where Lord Buddha lived as a prince until 29 years of age; and Ramagrama, which is believed to have a stupa containing one of eight relics of the Lord Buddha.



UNESCO/Dhan K. Limbu



UNESCO/Dhan K. Limbu

## Major Buddhist sites in the Greater Lumbini Area



Source: Ministry of Local Development of Nepal

Lumbini, Nepal, South Asia

### Kapilvastu

- 1 **Tilaurakot:** The ancient capital of the Shakya Kingdom, the kingdom of Lord Buddha's father, with remains of the fortification wall and gates; Prince Siddhartha lived here until 29 years of age; site on Tentative World Heritage list
- 2 **Niglihawa:** Birthplace of Kanakmuni, who was one of the four Buddhas of the Bhadrakalpa era (which is a long and immeasurable period of time and it is believed that the present period is also part of the Bhadrakalpa era); site has a broken Asoka Pillar erected by Emperor Asoka in 249 BC
- 3 **Aurorakot:** Ruins of a rectangular fortified area; believed to be the natal town of Kanakmuni Buddha
- 4 **Sagarhawa:** A forest with a lake known as Lumbusagar; thousands of Shakyas massacred at this site by King Virudhaka; ruins of hundreds of stupas built to remember those who were massacred
- 5 **Gotihawa:** Remains of an Asoka Pillar to mark Krakuchhanda's birthplace; Krakuchhanda was one of the four Buddhas of the Bhadrakalpa period

- 6 **Kudan:** Place where Lord Buddha met his father, wife and son for the first time after his renunciation; his son Rahul was ordained by Lord Buddha's most revered disciple
- 7 **Sisahaniya:** Important archaeological site of the Maurya-Kushan era; believed to have an ancient Buddhist monastery and a fort

### Rupandehi

- 8 **Lumbini:** Birthplace of Lord Buddha; World Heritage property
- 9 **Devdaha:** The ancient capital of the Koliya Kingdom, which was the home of Lord Buddha's mother and his in-laws

### Nawalparasi

- 10 **Ramagrama:** Stupa believed to contain one of eight relics of the Lord Buddha; site on Tentative World Heritage list



## Socio-economic data of the Greater Lumbini Area

The three districts of Rupendehi, Nawalparasi and Kapilvastu cover an area of 5,260 sq km with a total population of 2,095,640 (Census 2011). Poverty is rampant within the three districts and large segments of the population in the Greater Lumbini Area lack access to basic facilities. For instance, in Nawalparasi, 8 Village Development Committees (VDCs) still do not have access to roads and 40 per cent of its population has no access

to electricity (Nepal Living Standard Survey 2003/4). The literacy rate in Nawalparasi is 72.9 per cent (Census 2011). In Kapilvastu, the level of poverty and socio-economic development is worse, with 80 per cent of the population having no access to electricity (Census of Manufacturing Establishments 2007) and a literacy rate of only 58.64 per cent (Census 2011).

|  | Kapilvastu                                  | Rupandehi                                   | Nawalparasi                                 |
|--|---|---|---|
| Area (sq km)                             | 1,738                                       | 1,360                                       | 2,162                                       |
| Population (Census 2011)                 | 571,936                                     | 880,196                                     | 643,508                                     |
| Population density (Census 2011)         | 329 per sq km                               | 647 per sq km                               | 298 per sq km                               |
| Employed population (Census 2001)        | 58.88%                                      | 47.86%                                      | 62.92%                                      |
| Employment sectors (Census 2001)         |   |   |   |
| Agriculture                              | 62.9 %                                      | 81.06 %                                     | 72.38 %                                     |
| Construction work                        | 2.75 %                                      | 2.35 %                                      | 3.4 %                                       |
| Retail business                          | 5.56 %                                      | 5.68 %                                      | 5.47 %                                      |
| Civil service                            | 1.76 %                                      | 2.3 %                                       | 1.9 %                                       |
| Education                                | 1.41 %                                      | 1.43 %                                      | 1.62 %                                      |
| Industry                                 | 7.12 %                                      | 5.53 %                                      | 8.93 %                                      |
| Hotel and restaurant                     | n/a   | 1.24 %                                      | 1 %   |
| Transportation/Communication             | n/a   | 2.07 %                                      | 1.49 %                                      |
| Number of households (Census 2011)       | 91,264                                      | 163,835                                     | 128,760                                     |
| Average household size (Census 2011)     | 6.26%                                       | 5.37%                                       | 5%  |
| Urban population (Census 2001)           | 5.64%                                       | 18%   | 4.02%                                       |
| Number of literate* people (Census 2011) | 289,988<br>(M 170,056; F 119,932)           | 569,029<br>(M 315,030; F 253,999)           | 423,054<br>(M 223,317; F 199,737)           |
| Religions (Census 2011)                  |   |   |   |
| Hindu                                    | 80.62 %                                     | 86.24 %                                     | 88.18 %                                     |
| Buddhist                                 | 0.87 %                                      | 4.61 %                                      | 6 %   |
| Muslim                                   | 18.16 %                                     | 8.23 %                                      | 3.75 %                                      |
| Kirant                                   | n/a   | 0.03 %                                      | 0.06 %                                      |
| Christian                                | 0.19 %                                      | 0.66 %                                      | 1.74 %                                      |
| Prakriti                                 | 0.02 %                                      | 0.02 %                                      | 0.06 %                                      |
| Bon                                      | n/a   | 0.08 %                                      | 0.07 %                                      |
| Others                                   | 0.14 %                                      | 0.14 %                                      | 0.14 %                                      |
| Political division                       | VDCs 77; municipalities 1; constituencies 5 | VDCs 69; municipalities 2; constituencies 7 | VDCs 73; municipalities 1; constituencies 6 |

\* Ability to either read and/or write in Nepali and perform simple calculations.

## The Kenzo Tange Master Plan



UNESCO/Dhan K. Limbu

## Background

When UN Secretary-General U Thant visited Nepal in April 1967, he proposed the development of Lumbini as a major centre of pilgrimage and tourism. This was followed by a UNDP consultant mission in December 1969, which led to a report that established the basis for further planning around Lumbini.

In 1970, the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini was set up. This committee initiated the preparation of the Master Plan for Lumbini, which was conceptualized by Kenzo Tange. The Kenzo Tange Master Plan was finalized and approved in 1978.

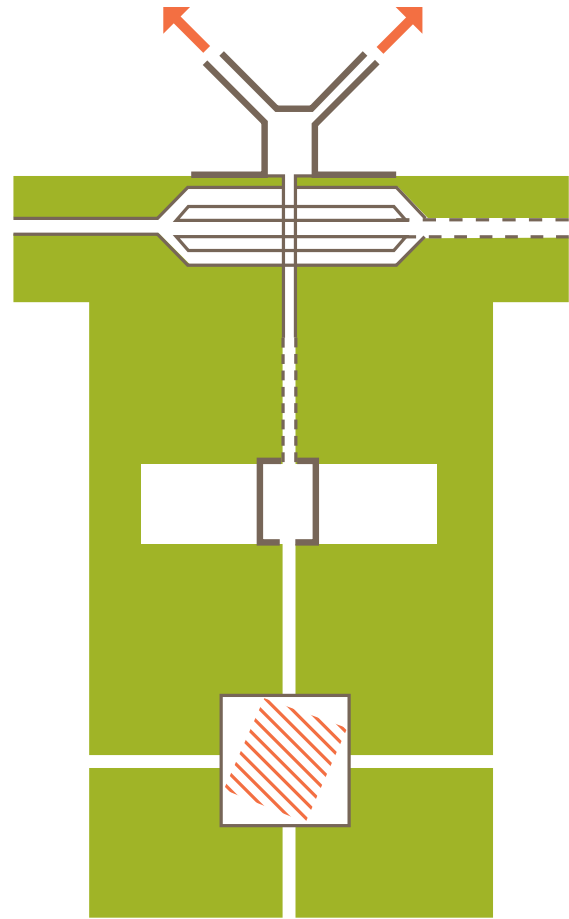
The Kenzo Tange Master Plan covers an area of 5 x 5 mile with the central square mile being the Sacred Garden within which is the designated UNESCO World Heritage property. Of the Master Plan, a 1 x 3 mile area which includes the following three zones: the New Lumbini Village, the Monastic Zone and the Sacred Garden - are part of the Lumbini Project Area. The 1 x 3

mile Lumbini Project Area was expropriated and brought under government ownership in the 1970s.

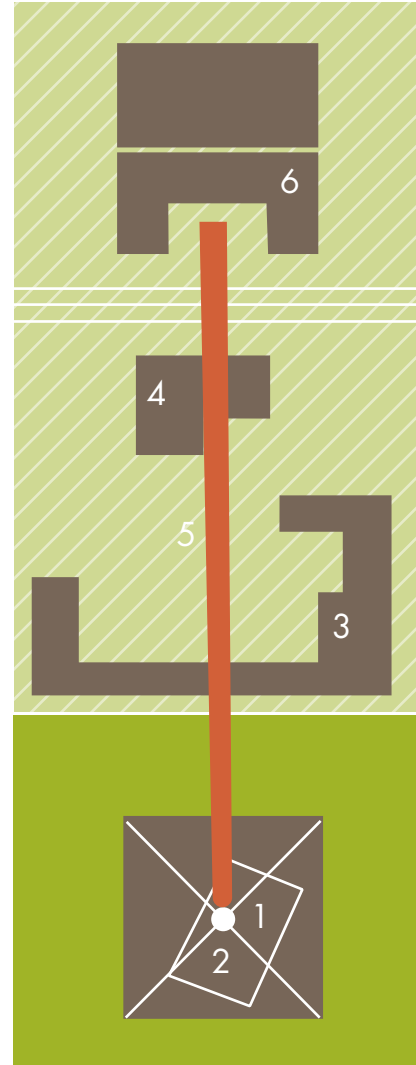
The design of the 1 x 3 mile Lumbini Project Area is based on geometric shapes and the notion of the path to enlightenment. The entrance is placed in the North in the New Lumbini Village, from where the visitor enters the site to begin the journey from a location of "worldly" activities. Then the visitor proceeds to the Monastic Zone for knowledge and spiritual purification, before reaching the Sacred Garden for enlightenment. The three zones are connected by a canal which is part of the central link. The area outside the 1 x 3 mile Lumbini Project Area within the 5 x 5 mile zone is the Buffer Zone, which protects the three zones.

Implementation of the Master Plan commenced in 1978 and was initially scheduled to be completed by 1985. Progress was, however, slower than anticipated. In 1985, the Lumbini Development Trust was established to manage and implement the components of the Master Plan.

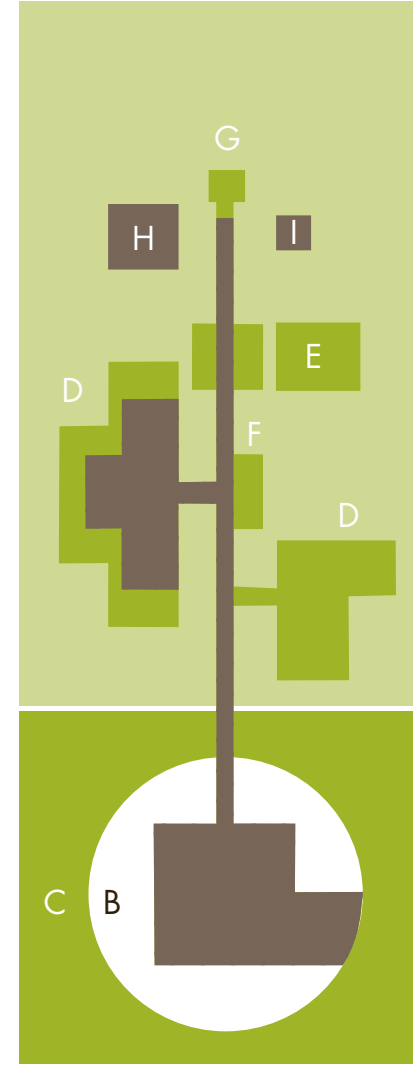
# Creation of the Master Plan



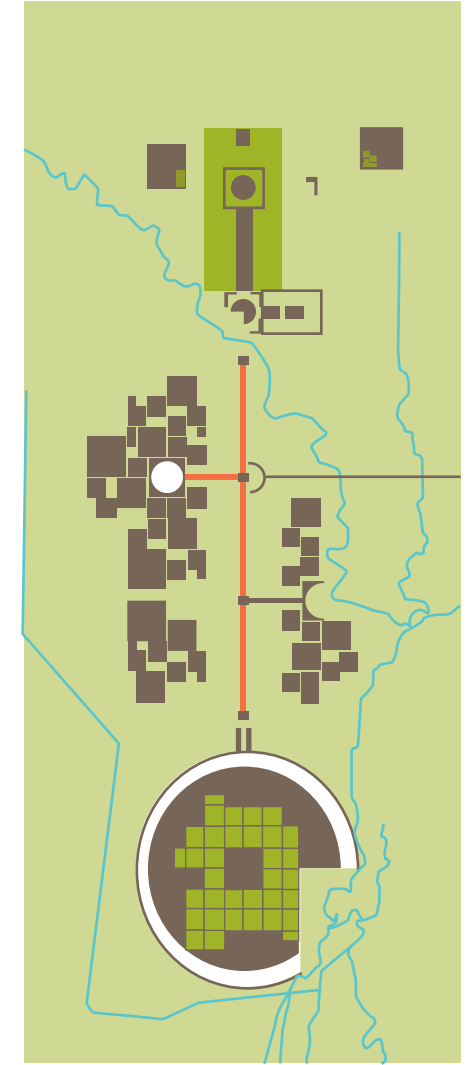
1969 - First sketch by Kazuyuki Matsushita



1971 - Preliminary design in a report for the Advisory Panel for the UN Lumbini Development Project



1972 - Final outline design by Kenzo Tange and design company URTEC



1978 - Design in the Lumbini Master Plan, Phase II, Final Report

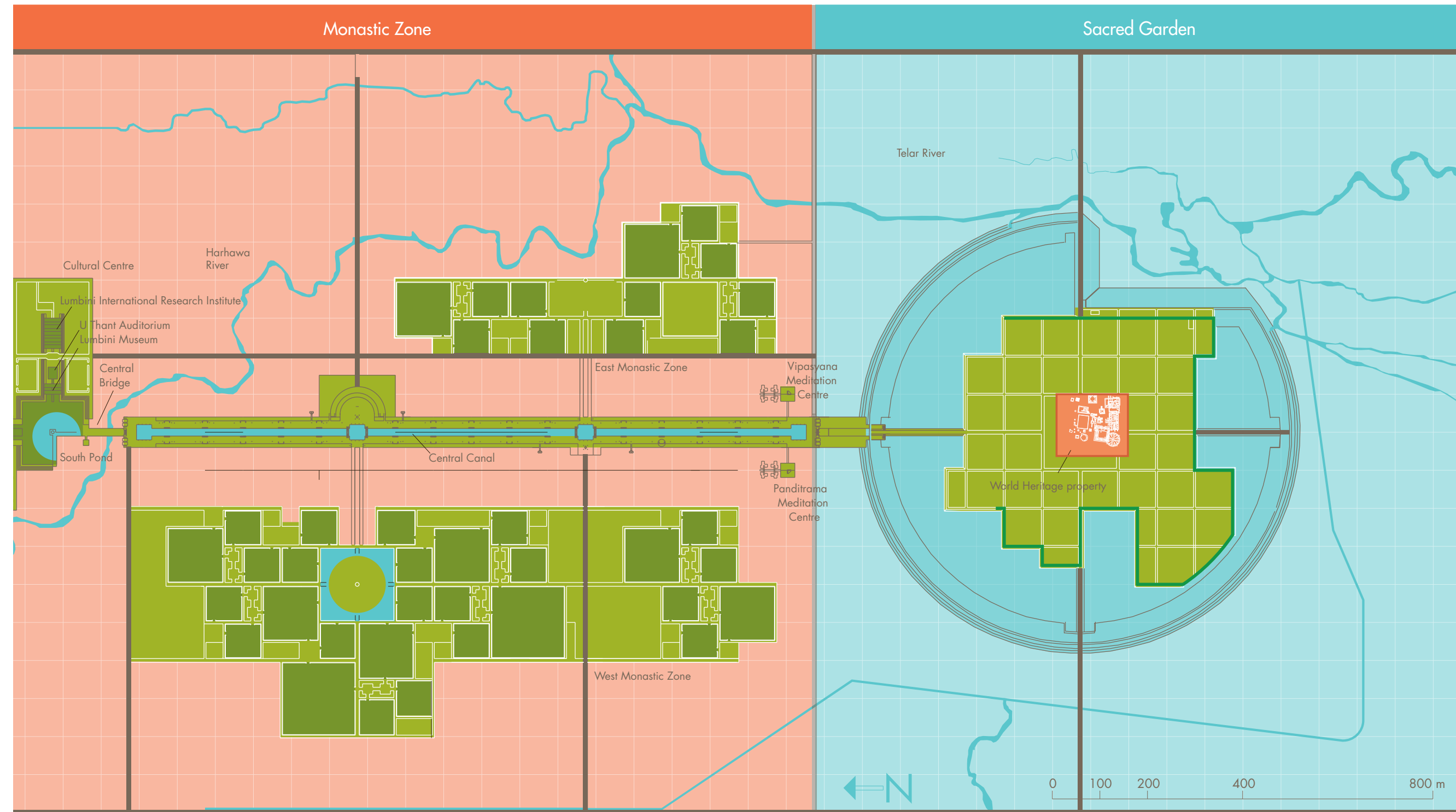
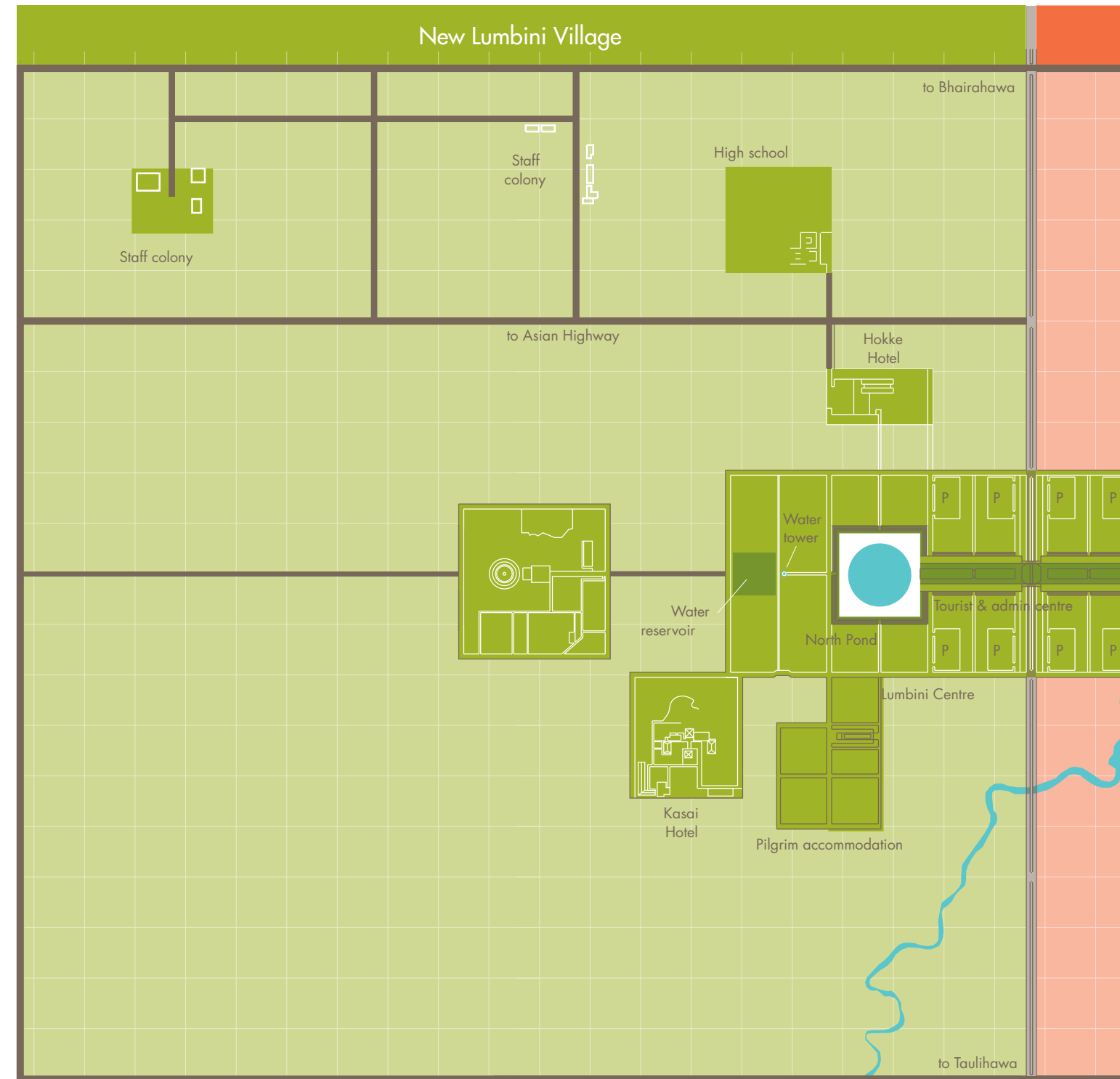
Source: From the presentation "Key Concepts of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan" by Yukio Nishimura and Takefumi Kurose within the framework of the UNESCO/Japanese-Funds-in-Trust Lumbini project at the second annual meeting of the International Scientific Steering Committee (ISSC) in Lumbini on 12 July 2011

Source: From the presentation "Key Concepts of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan" by Yukio Nishimura and Takefumi Kurose within the framework of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust Lumbini project at the second annual meeting of the International Scientific Steering Committee in Lumbini on 12 July 2011



# Kenzo Tange Master Plan

5 x 5 mile area



1 x 3 mile  
Lumbini  
Project Area

## UNDP contributions for the development of the Master Plan

Since 1973, UNDP has contributed USD 1,752,000 to design and implement the Master Plan for the development of Lumbini.

| 1973                                | 1984   | 1984       | 1987  | 1988   |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------|---|--|
| Final Master Plan – Phase 3 Stage 1 | Architectural and engineering design – Phase 3 Stage 2 | Soil test  | Technical assistance for realization of Master Plan – Phase 2 & 5 | Assistance to the development of Lumbini Phase 2 & 5 |
| USD 200,000                         | USD 440,000  | USD 42,000 | USD 424,000   | USD 646,000  |
| Total USD 1,752,000                 |  |            |   |  |

Source: Lumbini Development Trust

## International Committee for the Development of Lumbini

The International Committee for the Development of Lumbini was formed in 1970 to promote Lumbini as well as to mobilize financial and technical support at the international level for its development. The committee initially consisted of 13 Member States including Nepal, Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar,

Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, under the chairmanship of Nepal's Permanent Representative to the UN. Later, the composition changed to 16 Member States when Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Republic of Korea also joined. The committee's last meeting was held on 16 September 2005 in New York.

## Implementation status of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan



Lumbini Museum in the New Lumbini Village

Since 1978, many elements of the Master Plan have been completed to develop the 1 x 3 mile Lumbini Project Area in accordance with Kenzo Tange's plan. However, other significant components in the New Lumbini Village, the Monastic Zone, the Sacred Garden and the Central Link still remain to be implemented. The following pages

show the implementation status of the different zones in the 1 x 3 mile Lumbini Project Area, including the names of the donors and their contributions to specific components that have already been implemented, in addition to the remaining developments required and the necessary budget for their completion.



Central Canal

UNESCO/Dhan K. Limbu



## New Lumbini Village

This area in the North of the 1 x 3 mile Lumbini Project Area is the zone that represents “worldly” activities from which pilgrims enter the site to begin their spiritual journey. This zone contains facilities for visitors including hotels, a tourist and administration centre, a museum

and a research institute. However, major components of the zone, such as more tourist and administration centres and car parks are yet to be implemented. The estimated budget required to complete the remaining components of the New Lumbini Village is **USD 23,131,000**.

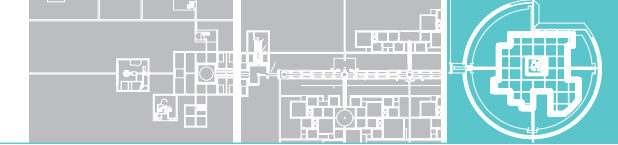
| Components of the New Lumbini Village  | Donor  | Status      | Contribution (USD) |            |
|--|--|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| Tourist & administration centre (1 out of 8 units will be constructed)   | Asian Development Bank   | Implemented | 1,280,000          |            |
| Parking (1 out of 8 parking lot implemented; another one will be implemented soon)   | Lumbini Development Trust already implemented 1 parking lot<br>Asian Development Bank will be implementing another parking lot |             | 25,000             |            |
| Tourist accommodation  | Hokke Hotel  |             | 1,745,000          |            |
|  | Hotel Kasai  |             | 1,745,000          |            |
| Pilgrim accommodation (Lumbini Development Trust had signed an agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka to take over the pilgrim accommodation)                            | Government of Sri Lanka  |             | 700,000            |            |
| Lumbini Museum (including landscaping)   | Government of India  |             | 360,000            |            |
| Lumbini International Research Institute   | Reiyukai, Japan  |             | 3,500,000          |            |
| U Thant Auditorium   | MoU signed with donor  |             | 2,040,000          |            |
| Tourist & administration centre (7 out of 8 units need to be constructed) which includes visitors centre, administrative centre, medical centre, police station, bank, etc.) | To be identified   |             | Funds required     | 14,174,000 |
| Camping ground (including brick paving, amphi theatre, fireplaces) – 2 units need to be constructed  |  |             |                    | 700,000    |
| High school complex  |  | 940,000     |                    |            |
| Staff colony (few blocks remaining)  |  | 4,050,000   |                    |            |
| Landscaping (soft)   |  | 350,000     |                    |            |
| Landscaping (hard)   |  | 2,917,000   |                    |            |

## Monastic Zone

This zone in the middle of the 1 x 3 mile Lumbini Project Area is designed to enable visitors to attain knowledge and undergo spiritual purification before they proceed to the sacred birthplace of the Lord Buddha. The Monastic Zone consists of 42 plots for the construction of Buddhist monasteries from around the world. This zone has been divided into the West Monastic Zone and the East Monastic Zone with the central canal in the middle dividing the West from the East. The West Monastic Zone represents the Mahayana (and Vajrayana) schools

of Buddhism with 29 plots, and the East Monastic Zone represents the Theravada school of Buddhism with 13 plots. There are also meditation centres for pilgrims and visitors. At present, six plots remain for the construction of new monasteries. The estimated budget required to implement the remaining components of the Monastic Zone is **USD 2,600,000** (this figure excludes the costs of constructing monasteries in the six plots that are still available).

| Components of the Monastic Zone       | Donor  | Status            | Contribution (USD) |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Monasteries in the West Monastic Zone | Buddhist Association of China                            | China             | 3,000,000          |
|                                       | Sokyo Organization                                       | Japan             | 470,000            |
|                                       | Phat Quoc Tu   | Vietnam           | 470,000            |
|                                       | Dharmodaya Sabha   | Nepal             | 410,000            |
|                                       | Tara Foundation Dusseldorf                               | Germany           | 3,000,000          |
|                                       | W. Linh Son Buddhist                                     | France            | 350,000            |
|                                       | Gadan International                                      | Austria           | 290,000            |
|                                       | Manang Sewa Samiti                                       | Nepal             | 95,000             |
|                                       | Drigung Kagyud Meditation Center, Ladak                  | India             | 175,000            |
|                                       | Korean Mahabodhi Society of Korean Buddhist Chogye Order | Republic of Korea | n/a                |
|                                       | Kwan Um Sa Temple Chogye Order                           | Republic of Korea | n/a                |
|                                       | Ka-Nying Shedrup Ling Monastery (Seto Gumba Boudha)      | Nepal             | n/a                |
|                                       | Zarong Tgupten Mendol Dogna Choling                      | Nepal             | 230,000            |
|                                       | Karma Samten Ling Institute                              | Nepal             | n/a                |
|                                       | United Trungram Buddhist Foundation                      | Nepal             | 1,725,000          |
|                                       | France Buddhist Association                              | France            | n/a                |
|                                       | Urgen Dorjee Choling Buddhist Center                     | Singapore         | 120,000            |
|                                       | Nepal Traditional Buddhist Association                   | Nepal             | 140,000            |
|                                       | Thrangu Vajra Vidhya Buddhist Association                | Canada            | 246,000            |



## Sacred Garden

The focal point of Lumbini is the Sacred Garden with the UNESCO World Heritage property at its center. It consists of important archaeological remains including the Marker Stone inside the Mayadevi Temple which marks the birthplace of Lord Buddha, the Asoka Pillar which Emperor Asoka erected in 249 BC to pay homage to Lord Buddha's birthplace, and the Nativity Sculpture

which depicts Lord Buddha's mother Queen Mayadevi giving birth. A circular levee has been built around the excavated area to protect it from flooding. The Sacred Garden symbolizes enlightenment. The estimated budget required to implement the remaining components of the Sacred Garden is **USD 5,976,000**.

| Components of the Monastic Zone          | Donor   | Status              | Contribution (USD) |           |
|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Monasteries in East Monastic Zone        | Government of Thailand                              | Thailand            | 1,165,000          |           |
|  | Government of Myanmar                               | Myanmar             | 700,000            |           |
|  | Government of Sri Lanka                             | Sri Lanka           | 585,000            |           |
|  | International Bhikschuni Sangh                      | Nepal               | 120,000            |           |
|  | Maha Bodhi Society                                  | India               | 235,000            |           |
|  | Korean Buddhist Mahabodhi Society                   | Republic of Korea   | 60,000             |           |
|  | Kingdom of Cambodia                                 | Cambodia            | n/a                |           |
|  | Canadian Engaged Buddhist Association               | Canada              | n/a                |           |
| Other components in the Monastic Enclave | All Nepal Vhikku Federation                         | Nepal               | 390,000            |           |
|  | Main pedestrian path                                | Government of Nepal | n/a                |           |
|  | Service roads                                       | Government of Nepal | 1,800,000          |           |
|  | Panditarama Lumbini International Meditation Centre | Myanmar             | n/a                |           |
|  | Nepal Vipasyana Center                              | Nepal               | n/a                |           |
|  | Secondary pedestrian path                           | To be identified    | Funds required     | 2,600,000 |
|  | 6 plots remaining for monasteries                   |                     |                    | n/a       |

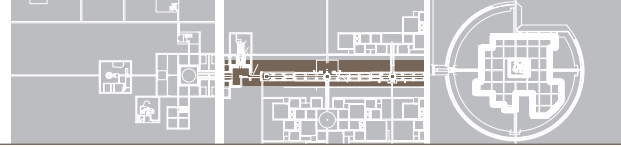
| Components of the Sacred Garden   | Donor  | Status      | Contribution (USD) |           |
|---|--|-------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Construction of Mayadevi Temple   | Government of Nepal  | Implemented | 810,000            |           |
| Enclosure around Asoka Pillar   | Government of Nepal  |             | 235,000            |           |
| Circular levee/circular pond (beautification remaining)   | Government of Nepal  |             | 1,520,000          |           |
| Circular road with circular drain (circular drain remaining)  | Government of Nepal  |             | 235,000            |           |
| Development of Sacred Garden (turfing, pedestrian access roads & drainage, ponds) (partially completed)                               | Government of Nepal  |             | 350,000            |           |
|   | Thai Phuong Thai Foundation  |             | 470,000            |           |
| Excavation of main archaeological remains   | Japanese Buddhist Federation/Department of Archaeology/Lumbini Development Trust |             | n/a                |           |
| Conservation and management of archaeological remains (Phase 1)   | UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust   |             | 791,000            |           |
| Pedestrian access roads and drainage (partially remaining)  | To be identified   |             | Funds required     | 2,700,000 |
| Relocation of existing structures (2 monasteries & 1 police station) so that archaeology does not get damaged                         |  |             |                    | 1,984,000 |
| Landscape   |  | 467,000     |                    |           |
| Conservation and management of archaeological remains (Phase 2) – ongoing negotiations with possible donor are currently taking place |  | 825,000     |                    |           |



Monastery of Sri Lanka in the East Monastic Zone



# Central Link



The Central Link consists of a canal, with pedestrian paths on both sides and symbolic pavilions that connect the three zones of the 1 x 3 mile Lumbini Project Area including the New Lumbini Village, the Monastic Zone and the Sacred Garden. It is planned that visitors will

travel by boats without combustion engines on the canal. The 12 metre wide canal signifies transition from worldly life to enlightenment. The estimated budget required to implement the remaining components of the Central Link is **USD 31,735,000**.

| Components of the Central Link   | Donor   | Status         | Contribution (USD) |
|--|---|----------------|--------------------|
| Central Canal (90% implemented)  | Government of Nepal   | Implemented    | 2,800,000          |
| Plantation (Partially completed)   | Government of Nepal   |                | 70,000             |
| Public toilets and drinking water facilities (planning phase)  | Asian Development Bank  |                | 115,000            |
| South Pond (Partially implemented)   | Rev. Sunmook Hyeja of South Korea provided financial support to implement 80% of the South Pond |                | 360,000            |
| Symbolic pavilion (North & South end)  |   | Funds required | 1,634,000          |
|  |   |                | 467,000            |
| North Pond   |   |                | 1,870,000          |
|  |   |                | 1,440,000          |
| Drainage for service road  |   |                | 674,000            |
| Black top road (partially remaining)   |   |                | 2,700,000          |
| River diversion  |   |                | 1,350,000          |
| Telecommunication (the telecommunication tower in the Sacred Garden needs to be relocated as it is damaging the World Heritage site and its surrounding landscape) |   |                | 5,400,000          |
| Water supply system  |   |                | 2,700,000          |
| Water tower  |   |                | 2,700,000          |
| Sewage system and treatment plan   | 5,400,000   |                |                    |
| Electrical system  | 5,400,000   |                |                    |

All the estimated figures required to complete the remaining components of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan only include the costs for physical development of each component.

The UNDP/UNESCO Lumbini Support team would like to especially thank Mr. Saroj Bhattarai, who is the Senior Engineer of Lumbini Development Trust, and Assistant Professor Takefumi Kurose of University of Tokyo, for reviewing the tables above and for providing detailed inputs and feedback.

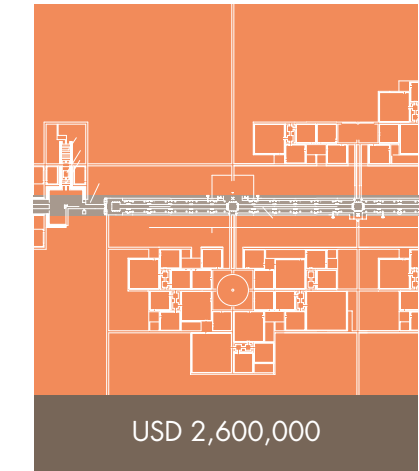
# Funds required for completing the Master Plan

The estimated budget required to implement the remaining components in the different zones of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan are the following:

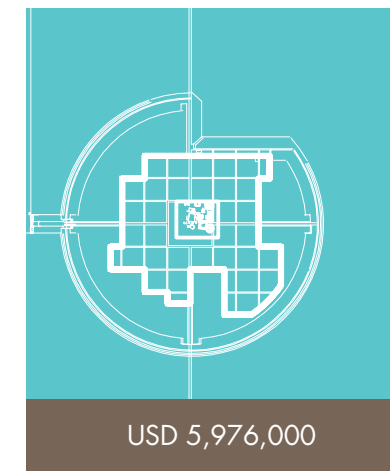
## New Lumbini Village



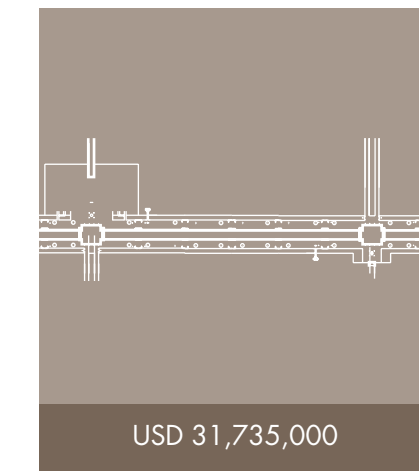
## Monastic Zone



## Sacred Garden



## Central Link







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## Extending support to other projects



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Mayadevi Temple

Durham University/Mark Houshold

### Protecting the vestiges

**Project:** International architectural competition

**Funds required:** USD 490,000

The present Mayadevi Temple shelters the historical monuments and remains within the World Heritage property of Lumbini, including the Marker Stone which marks the location where Lord Buddha was born.

Excavations have demonstrated that Lumbini and its surrounding areas were occupied from the first half of the first millennium BC. Excavations have also shown that the location of the current Mayadevi Temple was already established as an important shrine before Emperor Asoka constructed a temple in 249 BC. Asoka also erected a pillar with Pali inscriptions beside the temple, now known as the Asoka Pillar.

In 1896, General Khadga Shamsher and Anton Führer discovered the Asoka Pillar with the inscriptions identifying Lumbini as the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Between 1933 and 1939, General Keshar Shamsher carried out extensive excavations in the area and reconstructed the Mayadevi Temple.

Between 1992 and 1995, a joint excavation was carried out by Nepal's Department of Archaeology, Lumbini Development Trust and the Japanese Buddhist Federation. The excavations focused on the Mayadevi Temple which was suffering damage from the deep roots of a tree to its immediate west. During the joint



excavation, the temple was dismantled, and structures from the 3rd century BC were identified and the Marker Stone was discovered. The present heavy steel structure was constructed in 2002.

However, the present Mayadevi Temple poses high risks related to the conservation of the archaeological remains due to a variety of factors including pollution and increasing numbers of visitors. At present, the conservation team of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project “Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha”

in cooperation with Lumbini Development Trust and the Department of Archaeology is monitoring the micro-climate inside the temple. The team will be making recommendations on ways to conserve and protect the archaeological remains inside the temple.

An international architectural competition is proposed to design an aesthetically appropriate structure to ensure that the historical monuments and remains inside the temple are protected from damage. The estimated cost of the international architectural competition is **USD 490,000**.



Kudan site in Kapilvastu district

are two sites that are already on the Tentative World Heritage list: Tilaurakot in Kapilvastu, where Lord Buddha lived as Prince Siddhartha before attaining enlightenment; and Ramagrama in Nawalparasi, believed to be the only relic stupa not opened by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century BC. There are a number of other known archaeological sites in the vicinity at Kudan, Sagarhawa, Sisahaniya and Aurorakot, but none have been systematically investigated.

Despite its association with the life of Lord Buddha, little research has been undertaken within the Greater Lumbini Area and there are still many unanswered questions. Population growth within the three districts along with rapid industrial and agricultural expansion in the region poses increasing threats to the archaeological sites. It is therefore imperative that the rich heritage of Lord Buddha’s natal landscape is swiftly mapped and preserved, so that future generations of pilgrims may experience this ancient religious and historical landscape first hand.

## Understanding the Greater Lumbini Area

**Project:** Archaeological investigation in the Greater Lumbini Area

**Funds required:** USD 1,200,000

The Greater Lumbini Area includes the Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi districts, each of which focuses on a major archaeological complex. There

One of the proposed projects is to conduct an archaeological investigation through aircraft-based laser scanning, also known as Light Detection & Ranging (LiDAR), a remote sensing technique which provides three-dimensional measurements of the earth’s surface. LiDAR will enable field mapping and provide an overview of broad features in the field that are often undetectable on the ground. Archaeological investigation through

the LiDAR technique will pave the way to carry out field surveys, including geo-physical surveys using ground penetrating radar to conduct full inspections of sub-surface structures without physical intrusion.

The estimated cost to carry out an archaeological investigation through the LiDAR technique is **USD 1,200,000**.



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to the problems related to the lack of adequate visitor services. Visitors are not able to quickly access information about Lumbini through a centralized source.

A project to establish an international documentation centre is proposed to collect and preserve important historical documents, data and images related to Lumbini through an advanced document management system, which would be accessible to visitors, researchers and others working on activities relevant to Lumbini. Documentation would include official records, correspondence, maps, audio-visual materials, project documents, reports and recommendations of international expert missions, as well as information on previous archaeological and preservation projects.

Establishing an International Documentation Centre will contribute to the development of Lumbini as it will support the integrated management process by being able to provide historical records of major management decisions in the region to both national and international stakeholders. The centre will enable project teams including conservation and archaeological teams to have access to an adequate documents base.

The estimated cost of establishing an International Documentation Centre in Lumbini is **USD 600,000**.

## Managing knowledge

**Project:** International Documentation Centre for Lumbini  
**Funds required:** USD 600,000

At present, Lumbini lacks a centralized system that provides documentary evidence of the history of Lumbini and its surrounding areas including development activities that take place in the region. As a result, access to relevant information is often missing when designing and implementing archaeological and conservation projects in and around Lumbini. This has created challenges for the current management of Lumbini and has contributed





Ramagrama site in Nawalparasi district

## Preserving Ramagrama

**Project:** : Enhancing the understanding and conservation of the Ramagrama site

**Funds required:** USD 345,000

Ramagrama, which is located in the Nawalparasi district in the Greater Lumbini Area, has been on UNESCO'S Tentative World Heritage list since 1996. Ramagrama is an archaeological site of great importance as it is believed to contain the only relic stupa of Lord Buddha not opened by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century BC. According to legends, when Emperor Asoka visited the site and wished to open the stupa in order to redistribute the relics, he was prevented from doing so by a Snake King. Hence, it became the only unopened stupa of the eight to contain Lord Buddha's mortal remains.

In spite of Ramagrama's significance, there are very few facilities at the site for visitors. A project has been proposed for enhancing the understanding and conservation of Ramagrama to assist national authorities to proactively preserve Ramagrama and establish a management plan which would include conservation of the site and development of visitor facilities.

The phases of this project would include:

- a) Undertaking an archaeological survey for the full assessment of Ramagrama through geo-physical studies, using ground-penetrating radar for non-intrusive inspections of sub-surface structures, as well as more intensive and intrusive excavation of selected areas.
- b) Establishing an overall mapping and understanding of the site, based on the findings of the archaeological survey.
- c) Preparing a conservation and management plan by a team of experts to safeguard Ramagrama, and establishing an infrastructure master plan for the site to develop the capacity for large numbers of visitors without their presence being detrimental to this historic site.

The estimated cost to carry out this project is **USD 345,000.**





## Recent and upcoming relevant publications

*Environmental Impact Assessment of industrial development around Lumbini, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha, World Heritage property.*  
UNESCO/Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance/IUCN Nepal. 2012.

*Photo book on Lumbini, Birthplace of Buddha.*  
UNESCO/Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance. 2013.

*Perceptions of the Sacred Garden of Lumbini.*  
UNESCO/Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance. 2013.

## Conclusion

The Kenzo Tange Master Plan was designed to turn Lumbini into a major centre of pilgrimage and tourism. It lays a solid foundation to protect the spiritual, archaeological and cultural assets of Lord Buddha's birthplace. Great efforts have been undertaken to implement the Master Plan in the past. It is now essential to fully implement it to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of Lumbini and safeguard it from factors that threaten its existence.

Considerable financial support is required to complete the Kenzo Tange Master Plan, and to ensure that the historical accounts - along with the monuments and vestiges that are associated with Lord Buddha's life - are fully preserved and protected.

Support is also required for a variety of additional projects that have been proposed in this brochure, including redesigning the Mayadevi Temple, undertaking archaeological investigations in the Greater Lumbini Area, establishing an International Documentation Centre, and preserving the Ramagrama site. These small projects are all geared toward conserving and safeguarding Lumbini and other Buddhist sites within its vicinity.

Firm commitment and assistance from both national and international stakeholders are needed to preserve and develop the sacred sites in and around Lumbini for current and future generations.

## National bodies responsible for Lumbini

### Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation (MoCTA)

Responsible for promoting cultural events and Nepal's heritage sites.

Phone: +977-1-4211870, 4211879, 4211607  
Fax: +977-1-4211758  
info@tourism.gov.np, tourismnp@gmail.com,  
tourismnp@tourism.gov.np  
www.tourism.gov.np

### Department of Archaeology (DoA)

Responsible for excavating, preparing and protecting archaeological sites.

Phone: +977-1-44250683, Director General -  
4250688, 4250686, 4250687, 4250685  
Fax: +977-1-4262856  
info@doa.gov.np  
www.doa.gov.np

### Lumbini Development Trust (LDT)

Responsible for managing, protecting, implementing activities and restoring Lumbini Garden in accordance to the Kenzo Tange Master Plan, in addition to managing other sacred Buddhist sites in the Greater Lumbini Area. LDT also engages in excavation activities when required in Lumbini-related sites.

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www.lumbinitrust.org

*This is peace land of Buddha  
and his teachings should be  
spread everywhere for peace  
in the world.*

Ram Baran Yadav, President of  
Nepal

*Lumbini - this place of powerful  
beauty, embodies the aspirations  
for peace and harmony that are  
cherished by each of us.*

Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-  
General

*I sincerely hope that the life, philosophy  
and the teaching of Lord Buddha will  
guide us to promote peace, harmony and  
reconciliation among people of different  
religions, belief, culture and creed.*

Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General

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