

# Lumbini: the Sacred Birthplace of the Buddha



**Safeguarding the World Heritage Site  
as a Driver for Sustainable Development**

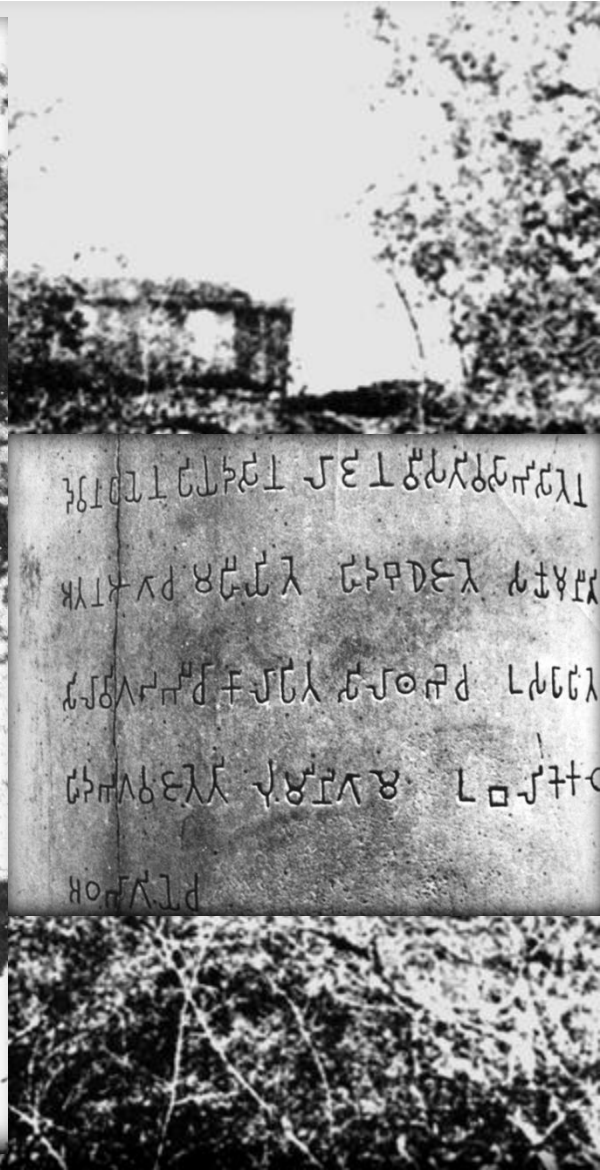
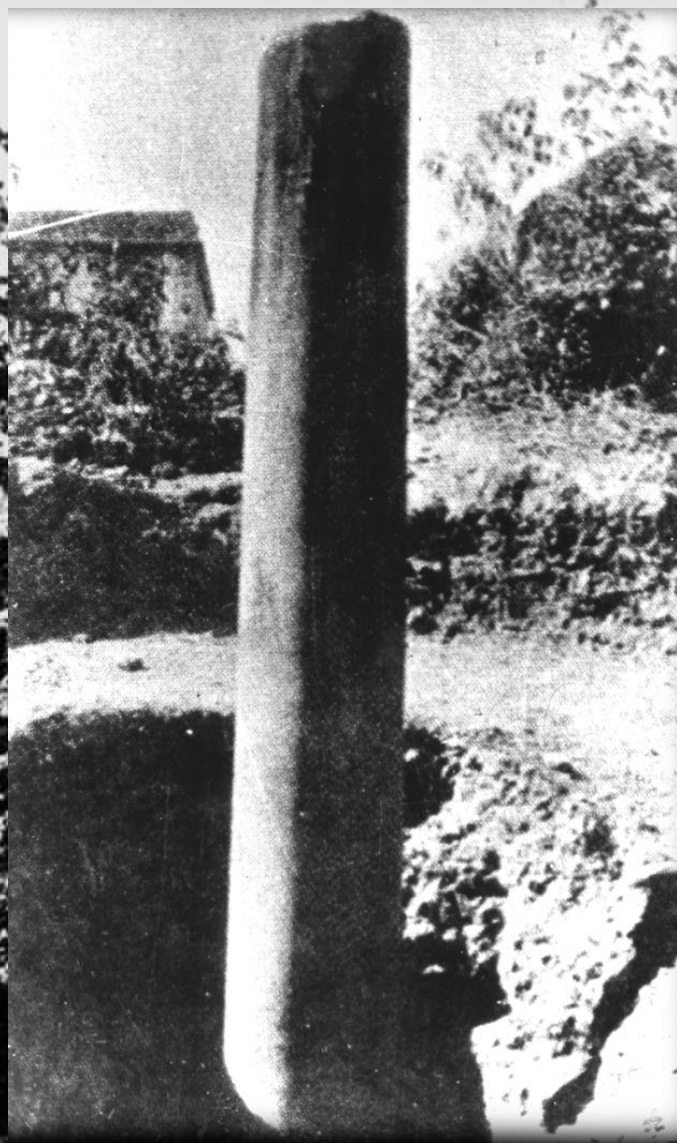




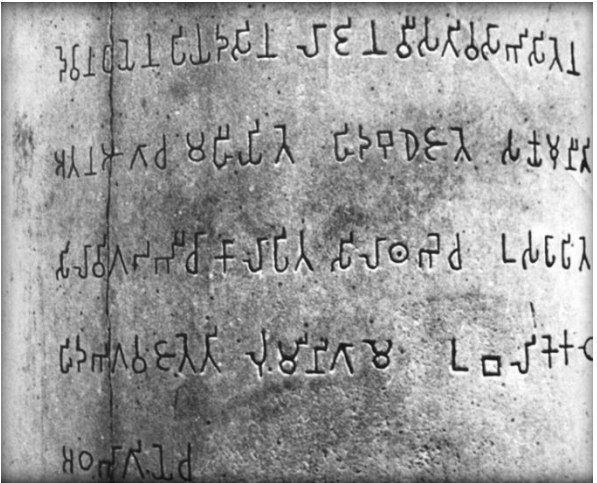




**P.C. Mukherji, ASI  
Lumbini  
1899**



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**“By King Piyadasi, the beloved of the gods (who) having been consecrated twenty years (having) come himself personally (here) to offer homage, or celebrate, because Shakyamuni Buddha was born here, was caused both a *Silavigadabhica* to be built and a stone pillar to be set up.**

**(And), because the Lord was born here, the Lumbini village was made free from taxes and liable to pay (only) one-eighth part (of the produce).”**

**JBF 2001**

# The Physical Development of Lumbini

The pilgrimage of the then Secretary General of the United Nations the late U Thant to Lumbini in 1967 became a landmark in the history of the physical development of Lumbini.

U Thant, a devout Buddhist from Myanmar, believed Lumbini should be a place where religious and secular leaders could work together to create a world free from hunger and strife.

Deeply impressed by Lumbini's sanctity, he discussed with the Government of Nepal how best to develop Lumbini into an international pilgrimage and tourism center.



# The Physical Development of Lumbini



The International Committee for the Development of Lumbini

- The initiation of U Thant a 15 nations 'The International Committee for the Development of Lumbini' was formed in New York in 1970.

This committee awarded consultancy to design a Master Plan for Lumbini to the world-famous architect Prof. Kenzo Tange from

Japan





The three square miles area along the north south axis encompassing three zones each covering one square mile is united by a long pedestrian walk-way and central link.



# The Master Plan of Lumbini

© 2007 Google™

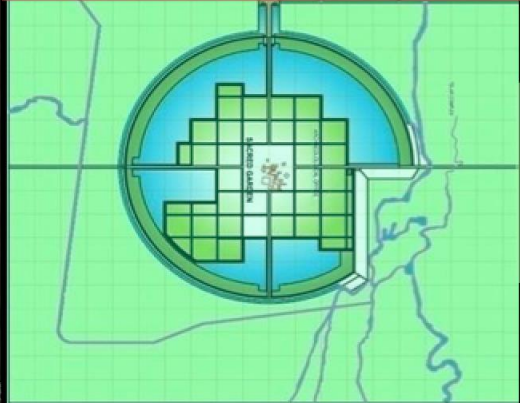
# The three square miles of Master Plan is divided into 3 zones



The northern one square mile is 'The New Lumbini Village'



The middle one square mile is 'The Monastic Enclave and Cultural Center'



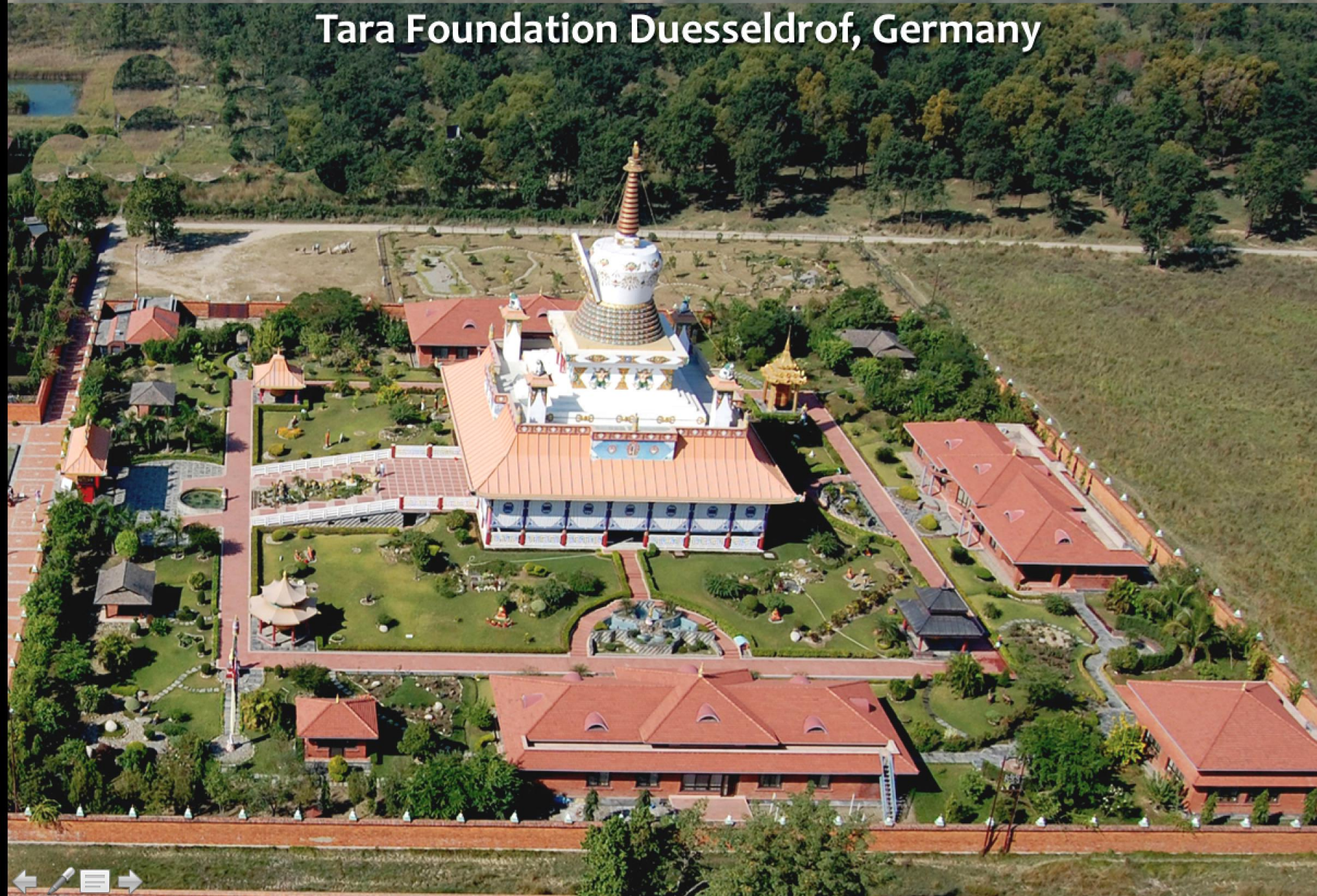
The southern one square mile is 'The Sacred Garden'

# Royal Thai Monastery, Thailand



# Monasteries and Temples in the West Monastic Zone

Tara Foundation Duesseldorf, Germany



# Monasteries and Temples in the West Monastic Zone

## Drigung Kajud Meditation, Ladakh, India



# Monasteries and Temples in the West Monastic Zone

## The United Tungaram Buddhist Foundation, Nepal



# Monasteries and Temples in the West Monastic Zone

Korean Buddhist Mahabodhi Society, South Korea



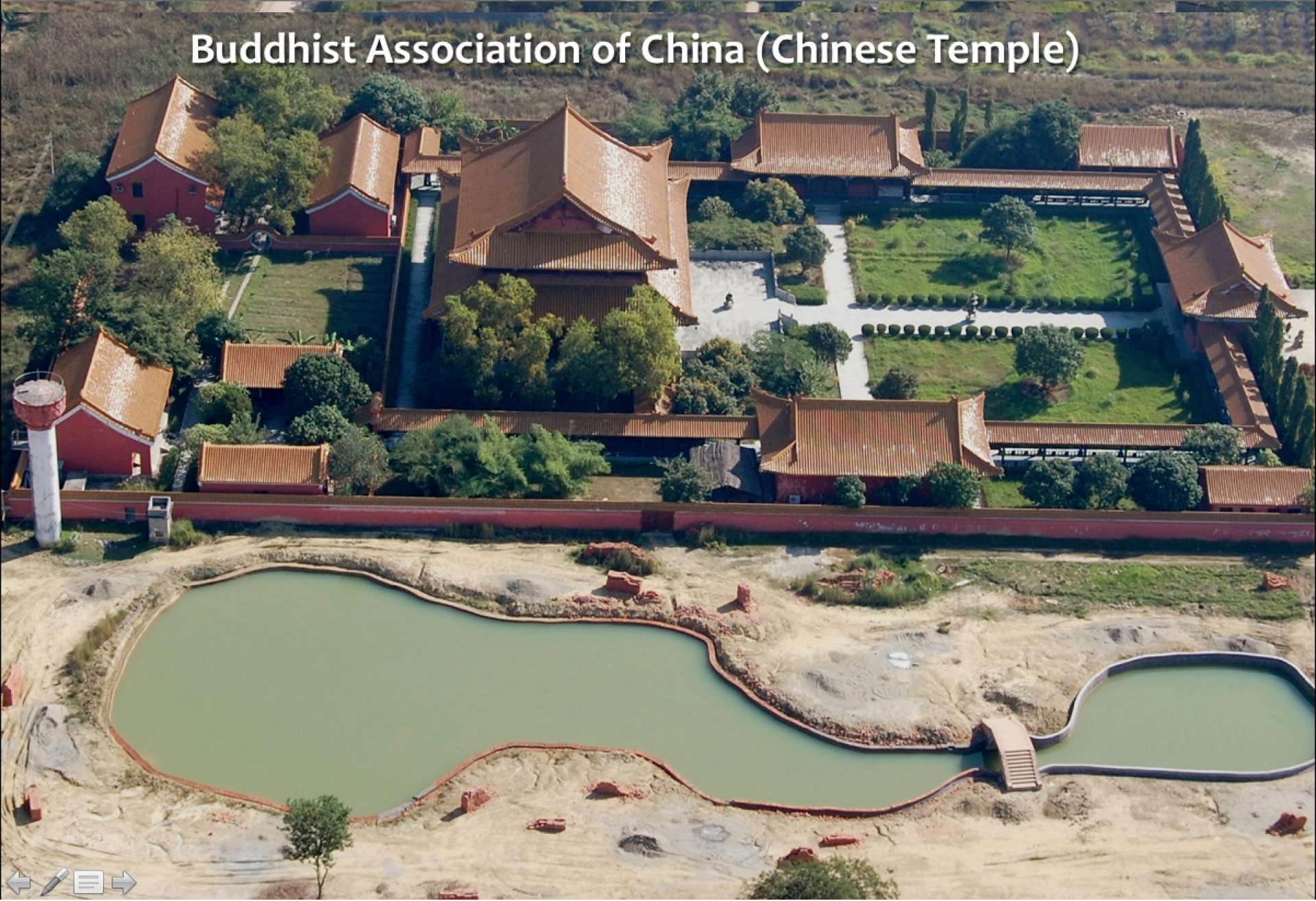






# Monasteries and Temples in the West Monastic Zone

## Buddhist Association of China (Chinese Temple)



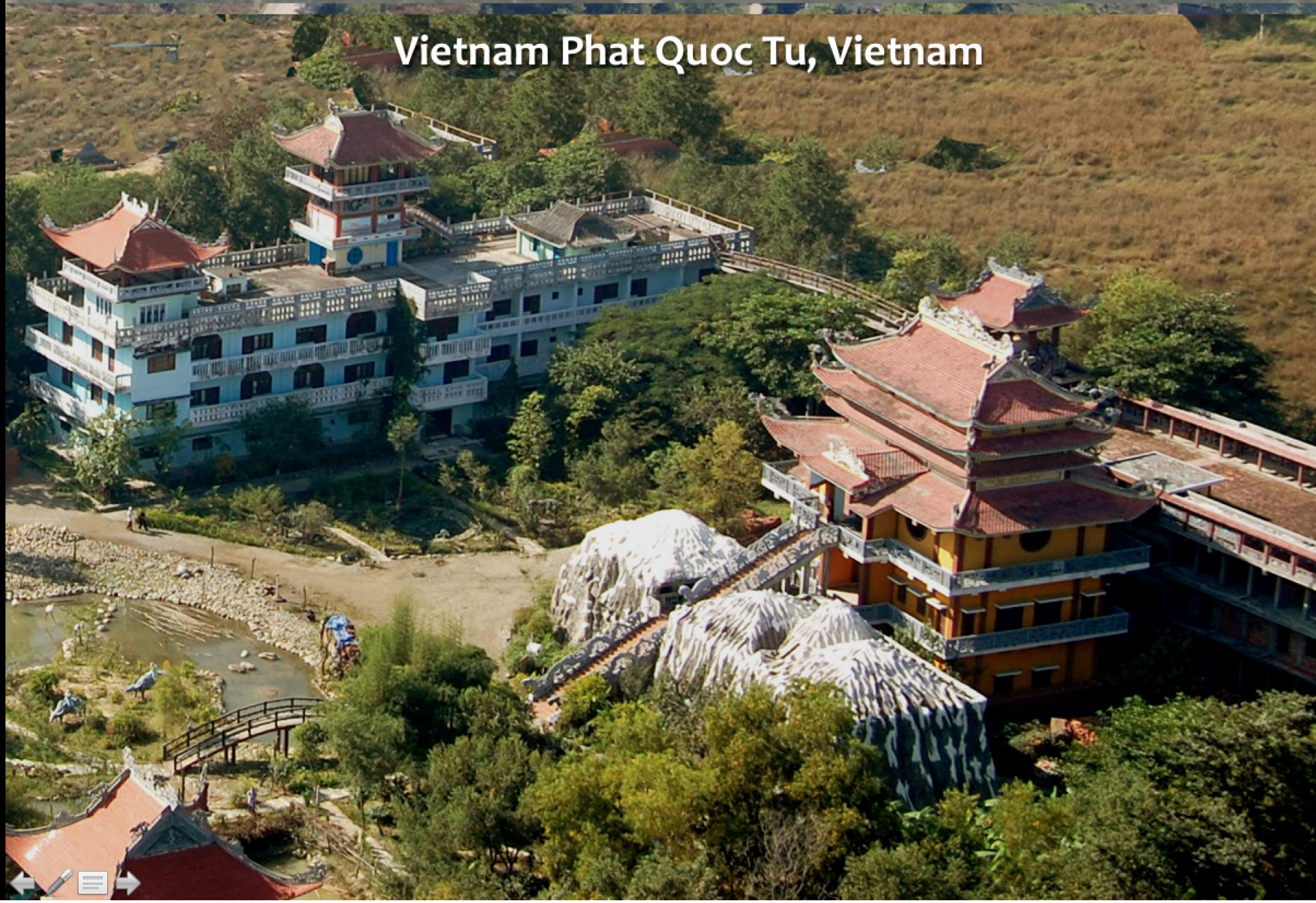
# Monasteries and Temples in the West Monastic Zone

## Buddhist Association of China (Chinese Temple)



# Monasteries and Temples in the West Monastic Zone

Vietnam Phat Quoc Tu, Vietnam



# Lumbini International Research Institute, Lumbini (donated by the Reyukai, Japan)



# LUMBINI MONASTIC ZONE Aerial View





# General view of the Cultural Centre





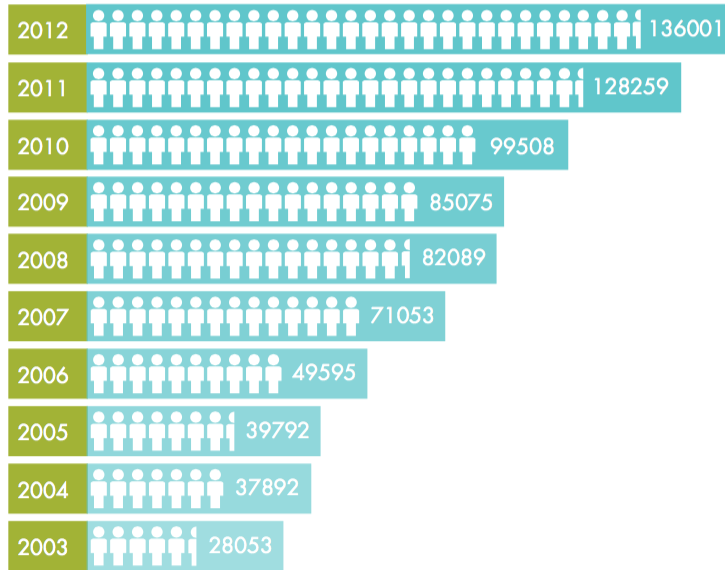




お釈迦様 ご生誕の地「ルンビニ」  
日常の煩悩から遠く離れた聖地での休息を心ゆくまでお楽しみください。

# Visitors

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

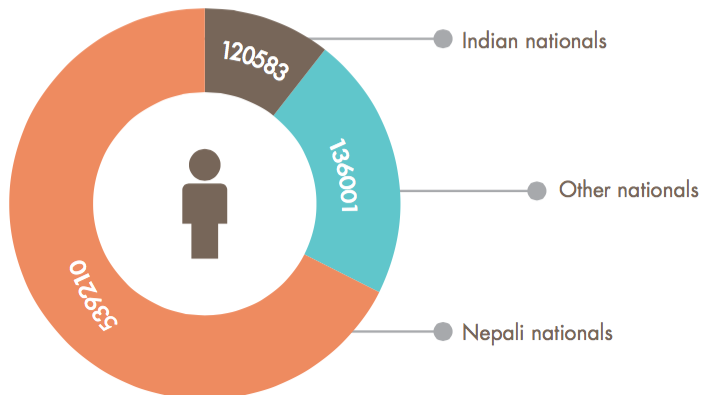


## 10 Year Greater Lumbini Area Tourism Plan:

to achieve 2.93 million arrivals and boosting tourism receipts four-fold to \$133.67 million by 2025.

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-07-14/govt-okays-10-year-greater-lumbini-tourism-strategy.html>

## Visitors in 2012





## Tourism: Threat or Opportunity?



*Rail-link agreements with  
China and India*

Buddhist Population  
in China: **244 Million**

Buddhist Population  
in India: **10 Million**



## Important questions to be asked:

- *What message and teachings do we present to the pilgrims who come seeking peace and solace in the teachings of the Buddha?*
- *What perception do the pilgrims have of Lumbini and what do they want to see in Lumbini?*
- *How do we manage the pollution impact of the growing tourism?*
- *How to develop Lumbini as a Global Centre for Peace and Dialogue?*
- *Lumbini as a “Pancha Sila Zone”*

# Challenges

## LUMBINI·CLOUD

The details of the Site Plan for LUMBINI CLOUD fit within the overall Master Plan of the Lumbini Garden completed by U Thant and Kenzo Tange in 1976.

This Master Plan positions the three principle destinations into districts. Arranged from the south to the north, these districts include:

- SACRED GARDEN on the south with the large reflecting pool surrounding the grass grid meadows.
- CULTURAL CENTRE / MONASTIC ZONE where the enclave of places for scholarship, worship, study, education, exploration, and teaching are organized into a campus. In addition, places for study, international meetings, and understanding shall be provided here.
- New LUMBINI VILLAGE on the northern third which accommodates the daily lives of those who live, work, serve, and maintain the entire development. This is also intended to be the primary tourist, visitor, and guest hospitality centre.

LUMBINI CLOUD, designed by CivicArts / Eric R Kuhne & Associates, is positioned as part of the northern district in the Lumbini Village. This suggested location is designed to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of visitors and guests each year who would come to visit this pilgrimage destination. Eric Kuhne notes:

"... Lumbini Cloud shall expand the global reach of Buddhism and provide a spiritual architectural symbol of the faith and a centre for hospitality and scholarship of Buddhism's tenets..."



The CENTRAL AXIS is extended into Lumbini Cloud as are the east / west axes. They represent the 4 Noble Truths. Eight arcing geometric paths cut through fields of Rice Paddies and align with the 8 Galleries that provide for education, experience, understanding, teaching, and scholarship developed by VTP Global & Centre Media.

According to Kenzo Tange: "...the overall intent is to reinforce the symbolic entity of the Lumbini Garden in its simplicity and clarity..."

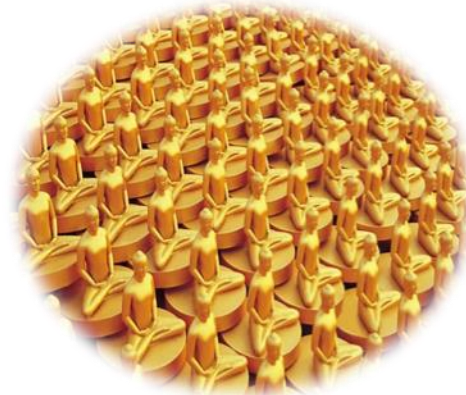


The development is planned to provide for visitors to Lumbini — pilgrims and tourists — and will also support such contemporary activities as residences for monks, research, international meetings, and teachings.

The United Nations Development Programme contributed nearly one million dollars for preparation of a Master Plan for the development of Lumbini, including numerous engineering and archaeological studies.

The plan, which was completed in 1978, has as its objective to restore an area of about 7.7 km<sup>2</sup>, to be known as the Lumbini Garden, centering on the garden and the Ashoka Pillar, with an additional area of 64.5 km<sup>2</sup> to be developed in its support.

(From the LUMBINI DEVELOPMENT TRUST: "Restoring the Lumbini Garden". <http://www.lumbinitrust.org/articles/view/95>)







LUMBINI

CRANE

CONSERVATION





2/27/2009

Click to look around



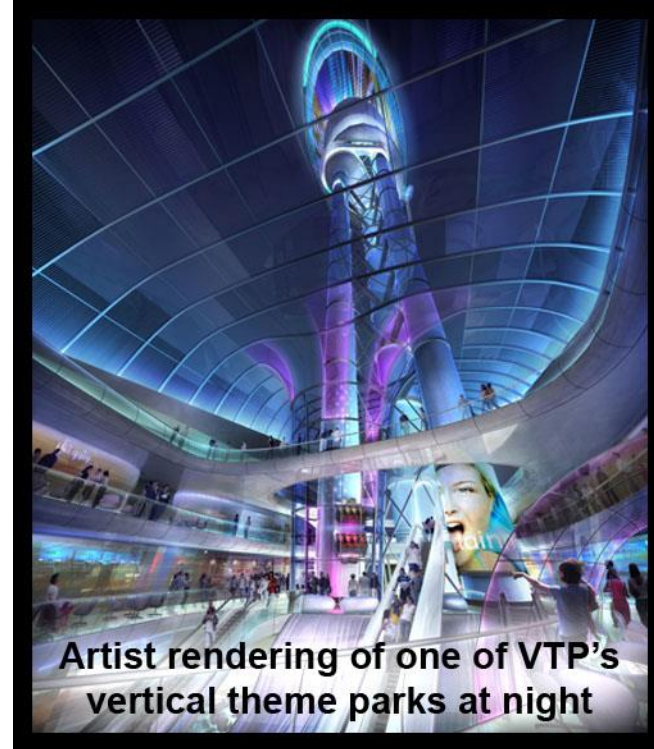
Wishnupura Road

Wishnupura Rd



Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe

Google earth



Artist rendering of one of VTP's vertical theme parks at night



**Lumbini, Nepal**

13 September 2012

Mr Xiao Wunan (APECF) and Brian Pettifer (VTP Global) holding signed MOUs at VTP's London office

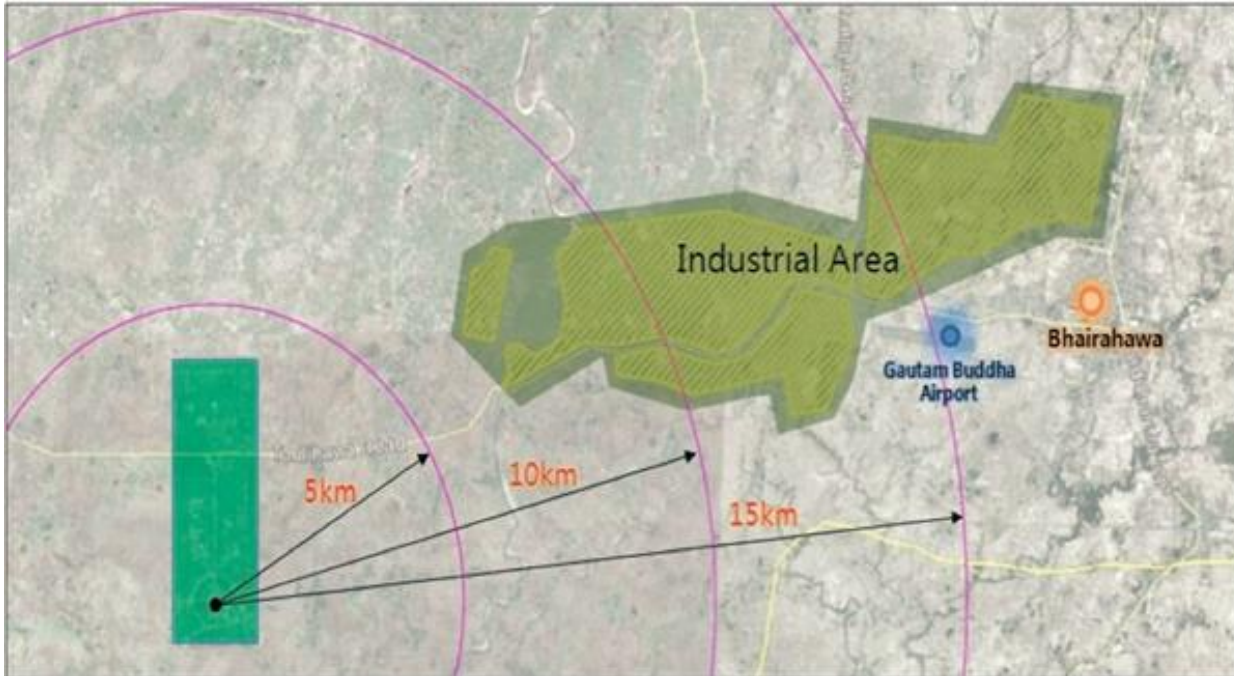
VTP Global's Special Projects team have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Asia Pacific Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (APECF) as lead development managers for the proposed international pilgrimage and tourism development at Lumbini, Nepal – the birthplace of the Lord Buddha – the centrepiece of which will be the Eric Kuhne designed 'Lumbini Cloud' tower which will be operated by VTP Global.



Lumbini World Peace City Master Vision **KWAAN E.S.P. I**

## Environmental Challenges:

- *Lack of Environmental Management plan for the Pilgrim Centre*
- *Rapid Urbanization*
- *Un-regulated development*
- *Perception and lac of awareness among the common citizens*

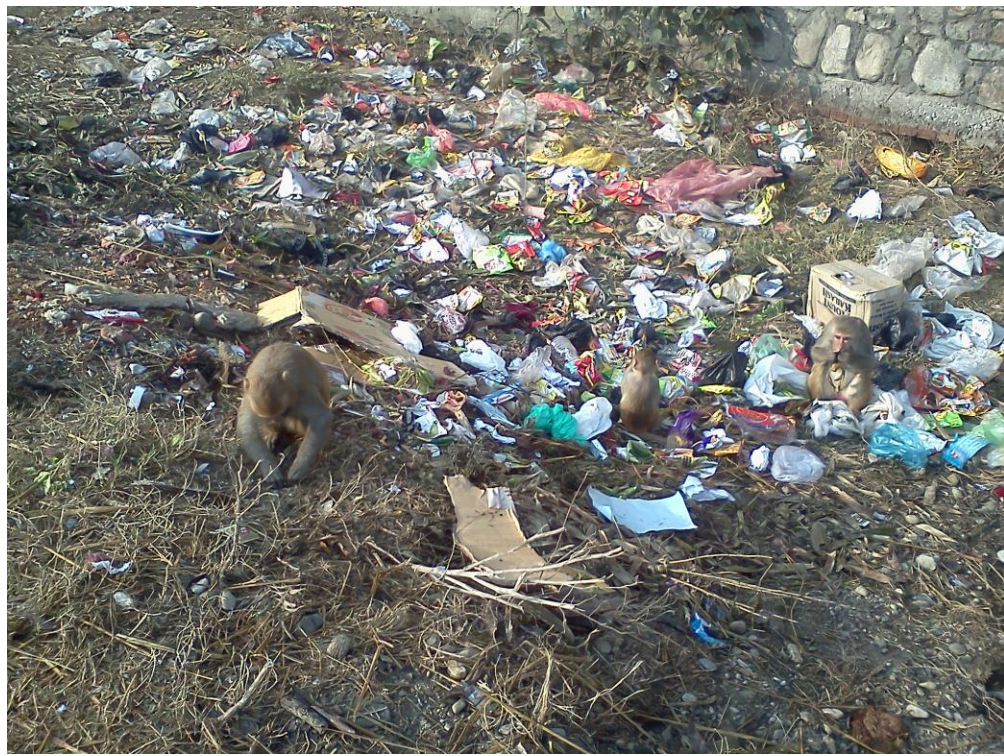


## Major polluting sources: 57

- Brick factories: 30
- Cement & Clinker: 12  
Factories ( producing more than 33,000 metric tones)
- Steel Plant: 2
- Noodle:1
- Paper:1
- Flour:1
- Plywood, cooking oil etc: 10







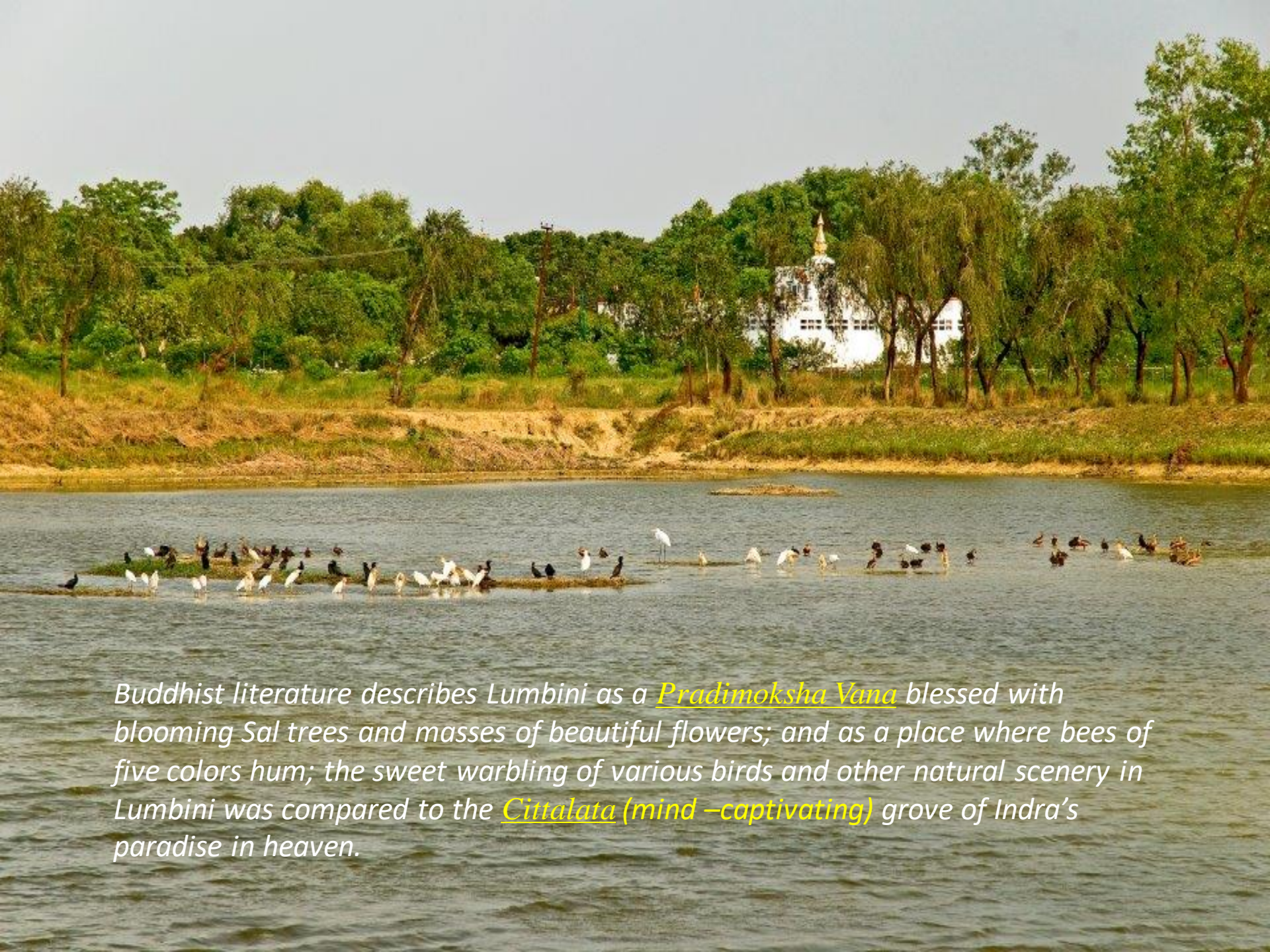




How best to honor the legacy of the Buddha?



Buddhism as a Living Philosophy: *Harmony between nature and human*



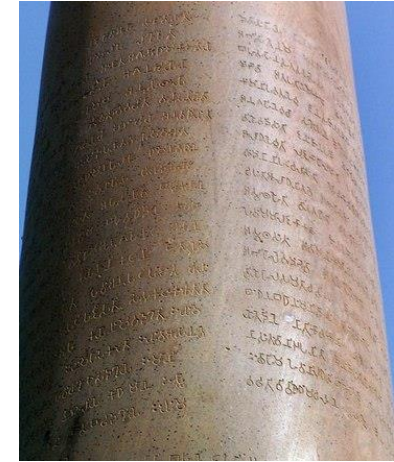
Buddhist literature describes Lumbini as a *Pradimoksha Vana* blessed with blooming Sal trees and masses of beautiful flowers; and as a place where bees of five colors hum; the sweet warbling of various birds and other natural scenery in Lumbini was compared to the *Cittalata (mind –captivating)* grove of Indra’s paradise in heaven.

## Applied Compassionate Conservation

*“Twenty- six years after my coronation various animals **were declared to be protected** — parrots, ruddy geese, wild ducks, bats, queen ants, terrapins, boneless fish, fish, tortoises, porcupines, squirrels, deer, bulls, wild asses, wild pigeons, domestic pigeons and all four-footed creatures....”*

*Along roads I have had wells dug and trees planted for the **benefit of humans and animals.***

*-King Asoka (290 BCE)*



# Lumbini Conservation Project

## *An integrated approach for Nature Conservation*

- Phase 1:  
**Crane Sanctuary**  
*“Protecting Buddha’s cranes and Lumbini Nature Centre”*
- Phase 2:  
**Restoring the Sacred Garden of Lumbini**  
*“Trees related with the Life of the Buddha”*
- Phase 3:  
**Environmental Management Plan for Lumbini area**



## Phase 1

### Protecting Buddha's cranes and Lumbini Nature Centre

#### Focus: Crane Sanctuary as Nature Centre

- Visitor/Learning Centre
- Nature Trails/Boardwalks
- Interpretive Signs and Information boards
- Training of Staffs and Guides
- Community Garden, Fruit & Medicinal Trees
- Objectives:
  - Develop Crane Sanctuary and its wetlands
  - Engage the visitors in Conservation Education
  - Generate Income through visitor fees and craft sales



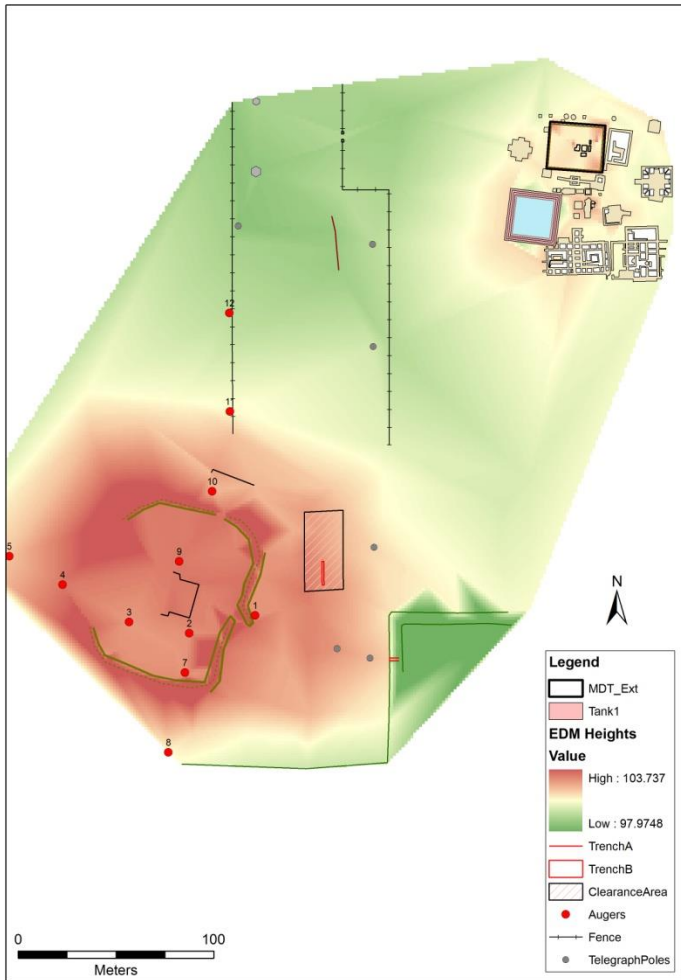
# Restoring the Sacred Garden of Lumbini

- Sacred Grove of Lumbini: A historical ecological Garden since 600 B.C.
- An opportunity to engage the wider Buddhist monasteries and Hotels of Lumbini in the conservation process
- Lumbini master plan: About 60% area as nature reserve
- Important Bird Area of Nepal
- *The river ecosystems of the Harhawa and Telar rivers that flow through the Sacred Garden are important eco-corridors and need to be protected*

### Some Pre-requisites:

- Detailed survey of flora and fauna of Lumbini
- Identification of possible wetlands and eco-corridors in Lumbini
- Awareness raising workshops

# Interdisciplinary Archaeological Methodologies



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair on Archaeological Ethics  
and Practice in Cultural Heritage,  
Durham University, United Kingdom





# Reconstructing the Asokan Temple – Presence of Tile and plaster



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Durham  
University

UNESCO Chair on Archaeological Ethics  
and Practice in Cultural Heritage,  
Durham University, United Kingdom

# Reconstructing the Pre-Asokan Brick Temple



Durham  
University

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair on Archaeological Ethics  
and Practice in Cultural Heritage,  
Durham University, United Kingdom

# Reconstructing the Pre-Asokan Timber Structure



Durham  
University

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair on Archaeological Ethics  
and Practice in Cultural Heritage,  
Durham University, United Kingdom



## The earliest Buddhist shrine: excavating the birthplace of the Buddha, Lumbini (Nepal)

R.A.E. Coningham<sup>1</sup>, K.P. Acharya<sup>2</sup>, K.M. Strickland<sup>3</sup>, C.E. Davis<sup>1</sup>, M.J. Manuel<sup>1</sup>, I.A. Simpson<sup>4</sup>, K. Gilliland<sup>4</sup>, J. Tremblay<sup>1</sup>, T.C. Kinnaird<sup>5</sup> & D.C.W. Sanderson<sup>5</sup>



Key locations identified with the lives of important religious founders have often been extensively remodelled in later periods, entraining the destruction of many of the earlier remains. Recent UNESCO-sponsored work at the major Buddhist centre of Lumbini in Nepal has sought to overcome these limitations, providing direct archaeological evidence of the nature of an early Buddhist shrine and a secure chronology. The excavations revealed a sequence of early structures preceding the major rebuilding by Asoka during the third century BC. The sequence of durable brick architecture supplanting non-durable timber was foreseen

by British prehistorian Stuart Piggott when he was stationed in India over 70 years ago. Lumbini provides a rare and valuable insight into the structure and character of the earliest Buddhist shrines.

**Keywords:** Nepal, Lumbini, first millennium BC, Buddha, Asoka, Mauryan Horizon, shrine, temple

### Beyond the 'Mauryan Horizon'

Although there is much information regarding the Buddha's teachings, most of the evidence used to piece together the character of early Buddhism is textual. Surprisingly perhaps, it is still uncertain when he lived (Coningham 2001, 2011). Dates proposed for his *mahaparanirvana*, or 'great passing away', at Kusinagara at the age of 80, vary between 2420

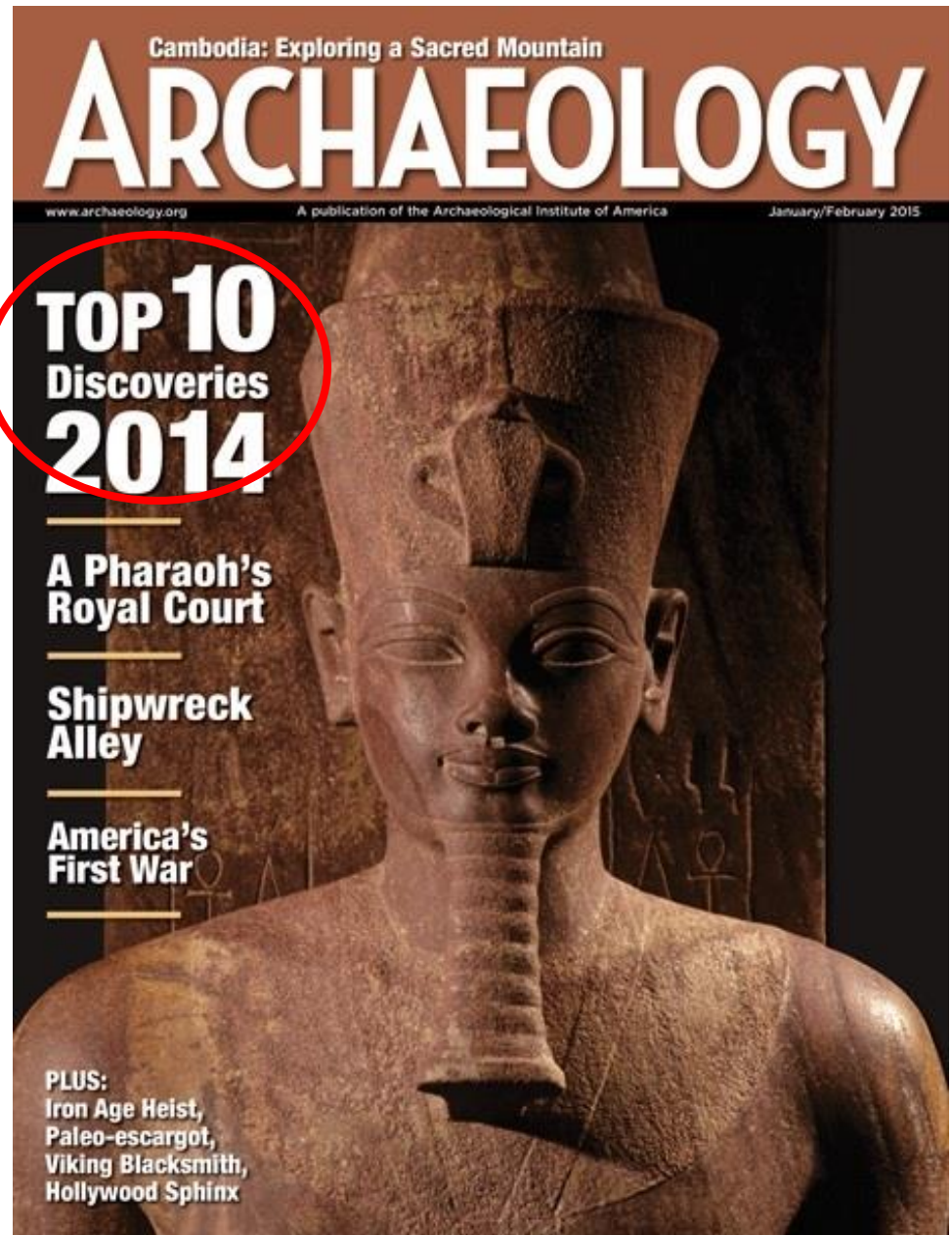
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<sup>3</sup> Orkney College, University of the Highlands and Islands, East Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1LX, UK

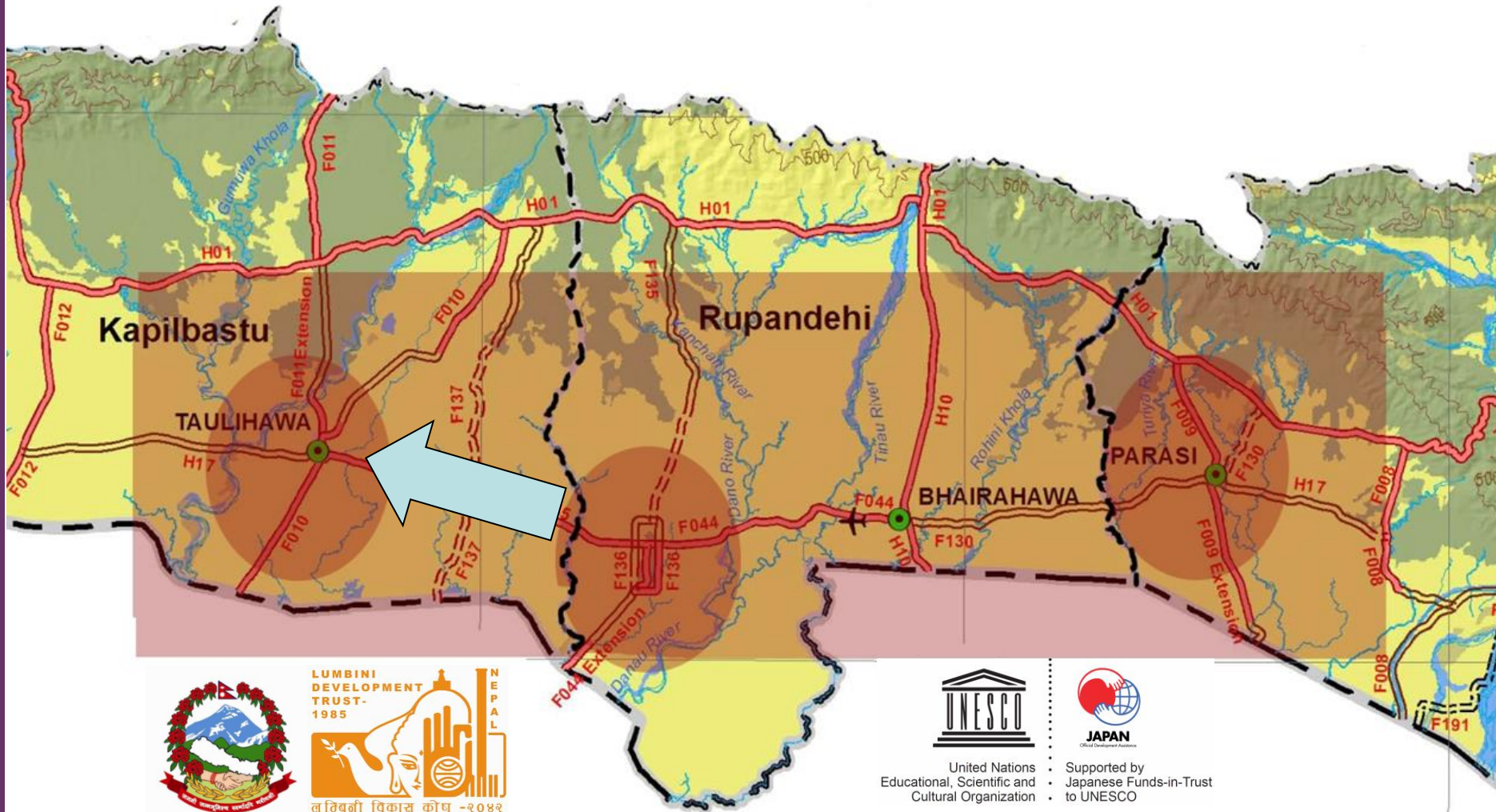
<sup>4</sup> School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA, UK

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre, East Kilbride G75 0QE, UK



# A Project to Strengthen the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, Birthplace of Lord Buddha

## Phase II: Tilaurakot



LUMBINI  
DEVELOPMENT  
TRUST-  
1985

नेपाल

लुम्बिनी विकास कोष -२०४२



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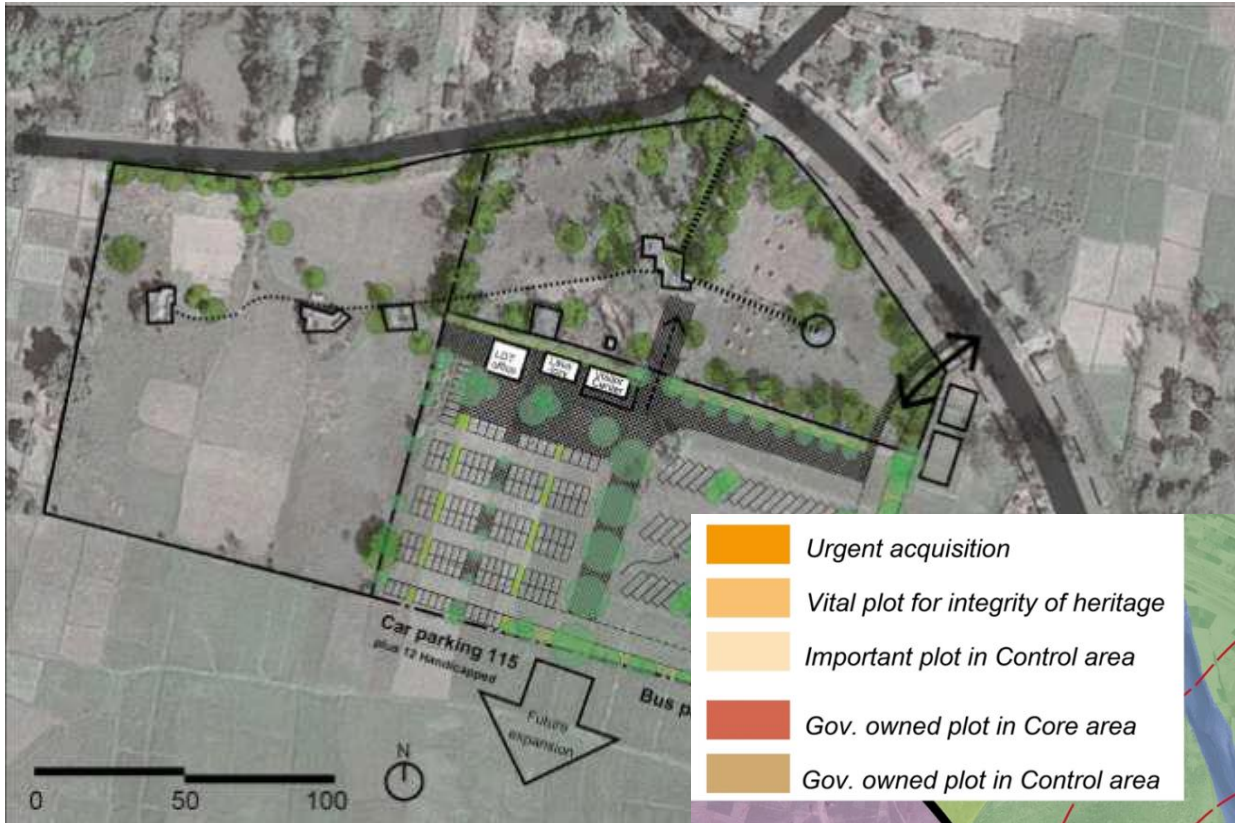
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Japanese Funds-in-Trust  
to UNESCO



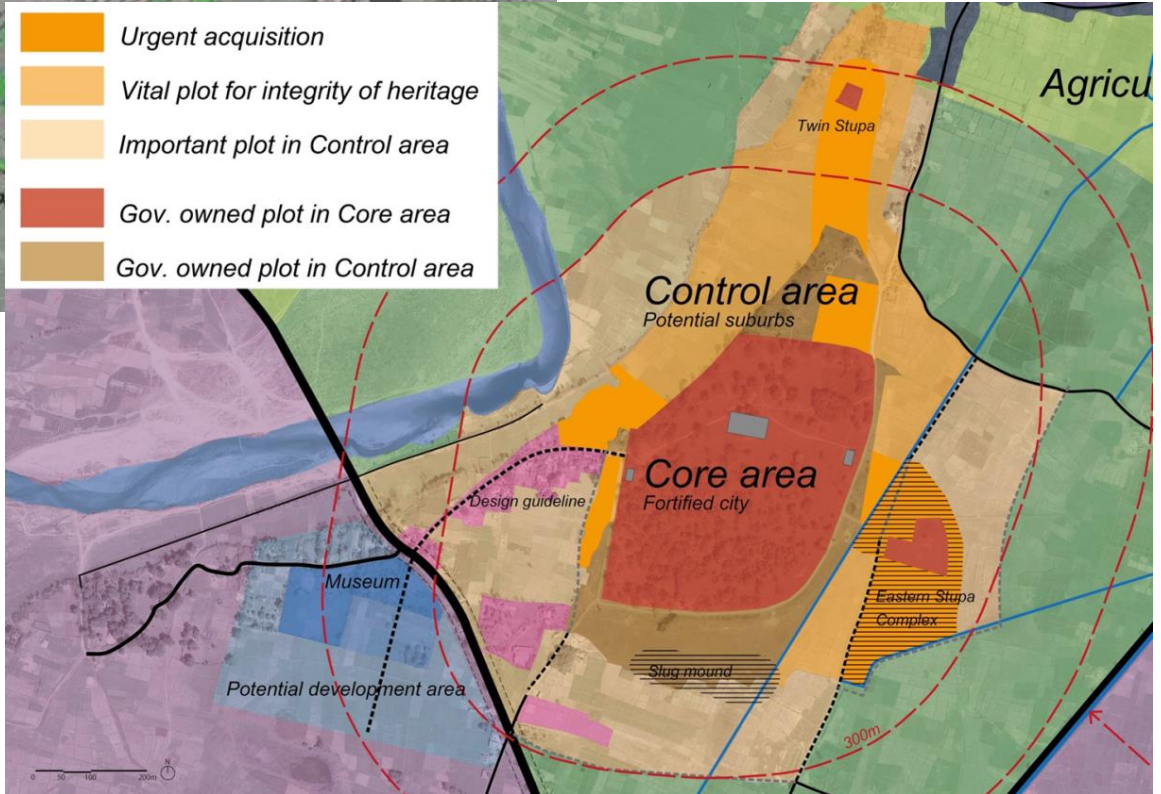








- Urgent acquisition
- Vital plot for integrity of heritage
- Important plot in Control area
- Gov. owned plot in Core area
- Gov. owned plot in Control area



# Understanding the social, economic and religious role of the site for local communities

