

World

SAFEGUARDING PHYSICAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development

Stand alone initiative

Task Manager: Jean-Roger Mercier

Year of ITFCSD grant approval: 2002

Status: active

Grant amount: USD 100,000

Disbursements: USD 28,760

Commitments: USD 6,720

The grant is supporting the application of the Bank mandatory safeguard policy (OP 4.11 – *Physical Cultural Resources*, replacing the OPN 11.03 – *Management of Cultural Property in Bank-financed Projects*), which requires an assessment of potential risk to physical cultural resources *very early* in the project cycle of all projects financed in whole or in part by the WB.

In particular, the ITFCSD grant finances the preparation of country profiles available to Bank operational staff in an organized format for use during the entire project cycle. These include information regarding identification, mapping and management of cultural resources in each of the World Bank's Borrower countries.

The profile template has been created and contains information from several sources, including the Internet, UNESCO and Bank documents. The basic profiles are actually under review, and then will be sent to experts in client countries for completion.

A web site for the profiles is under construction, to be launched within June 2004. Existing information from the profile templates has been entered into the web site format for two-thirds of the Bank's client countries; this work should be completed by June 30, 2004.

The response to the diffusion of the country profiles within the Bank is extremely encouraging. The East Asia and Pacific Region (EAP) has assigned a JPA to work on the PCR Country Profiles, and to create similar profiles for the Indigenous Peoples and Natural Habitats safeguard policies in three pilot countries, with the intent of expanding the work to cover all countries in the Region.

Presentations on the PCR Country Profiles have been made in various safeguard training sessions and to outside experts in the culture field, including those from UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, and from the U.S. Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The PCR Country Profiles will be presented in a training session on implementation of the Bank's policy on Physical Cultural Resources scheduled for May 19, 2004. Modules prepared for this session will be used for broader training in the Bank by Quality Assurance and Compliance Unit in collaboration with the Regions.

The PCR Country Profiles are unique in the world; no other institution is undertaking such work, and thus it is anticipated that eventually some of the information will be made available to governments, institutions and persons outside of the Bank.