Saving Our Vanishing Heritage

Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage Sites in the Developing World

Global Heritage Fund
### Saving Our Vanishing Heritage

#### Heritage in Peril – Examples of Sites on the Verge

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For further information on our Global Heritage in Peril, see: [www.globalheritagefund.org/vanishing](http://www.globalheritagefund.org/vanishing).
MIRADOR, GUATEMALA
The Cradle of Mayan Civilization

SIGNIFICANCE
Mirador’s Preclassic Maya cities are more numerous and larger than those found at nearby Tikal National Park, and predate the Classic Maya site of Tikal by 800-1200 years. Mirador’s priceless ancient cities and monuments of the Preclassic Maya period are the most spectacular and unique in Central America. Mirador is Guatemala’s leading nomination for UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription.

The Mirador Basin contains four of the largest and oldest Maya cities, all larger than nearby Tikal National Park – El Mirador itself, Nakbe, Tintal and Wakna. Mirador’s ancient cities are surrounded by intact forests and contain massive pyramids, temples and other relics of a highly evolved and complex society. These Mirador Basin discoveries have thus led experts to identify this area as the Cradle of Mayan Civilization. Today, these cities lie abandoned and buried beneath 2000 years of jungle growth, and are under threat from numerous forces.
THREATS

Looting: With more than 12,000 looters trenches estimated to exist, the plundering of archaeological sites and large-scale trafficking of Mayan artifacts is a massive threat to Mirador. Only sites where GHF-FARES are working and paying for rangers have been protected, while others still undiscovered by scientists are being, or have already been, pillaged by looters.

Deforestation: Drug trafficking profits are fueling a massive ranching industry that requires large areas of jungle to be cleared, and which has virtually destroyed the Maya Biosphere within the past five years in northern Guatemala. Forest is also being cleared for agricultural purposes, generally in a slash-and-burn practice that employs fire to clear the land.

Illegal Logging: The best logs for market are on the archaeological sites built above the swamps of Mirador, where over a half million people live. When trees are felled, it has a devastating effect on these sites. Logging roads also enable looters and other encroachment endangering the archaeological sites.

URGENCY

Encroaching fires are engulfing Mirador, and over 75 percent of the Maya Biosphere has been lost in the past 10 years. Looting continues to ravage Mirador from within, with hundreds of unprotected sites being looted annually.

Fires from 2005-2010 engulfing Mirador, the last intact major tropical forest in the Maya Biosphere. Photo: GHF and FARES
SIGNIFICANCE
The Citadelle Laferrière (or Citadelle Henri Christophe) is a large mountaintop fortress located in northern Haiti. Constructed in the early 19th century, it is the largest fortress in the Americas, and one of Haiti’s greatest national symbols. The Palace of Sans-Souci (translated from French as “without worry”) was the royal residence of King Henri until his suicide on its grounds in 1820.

Today, the palace is mostly in ruins as the result of a major earthquake in 1842, but before its destruction was regarded by many as the Caribbean equivalent of France’s Palace of Versailles. Both the Citadel and Sans-Souci Palace serve as universal symbols of liberty, having been the first monuments constructed by slaves who had gained their freedom. Together, the two were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1982.

THREATS
Insufficient Management: Little has been done to authentically restore the Citadelle’s Batterie Coidavid, which requires reinforcements to its three stories of floors and stairways. There is also a need for emergency repairs to the Citadel’s walls and roof vaults, in order to ensure visitor safety.
Damaged ceilings and walls, and collapsing floors from four stories, remain a hazard to visitors and staff. Photo: GHF

**Poor Drainage:** Since its demolition due to a massive earthquake in 1842, the Sans-Souci Palace has been left as a ruin, and is structurally deteriorating as the rains liquefy the foundation due to lack of proper drainage. Only a new impermeable drainage and flooring system will prevent further loss.

**URGENCY**
Today, less than 1,000 paying visitors visit the Citadelle Laferrière annually, despite its being one of the most important sites in Latin America. Partly this has been the fault of instability and turmoil within the Haitian government, but the site is also in critical need of emergency structural and safety work. Meanwhile, the Palace of Sans-Souci continues to crumble from within, costing a country in need precious economic opportunity.
SIGNIFICANCE
Maluti, a small village located on the border of Jharkhand and Bengal, is famous for its 108 ancient temples that date back to the 18th century and earlier. The temples, made of terracotta, have great historical and religious significance, and contain Pala structures that have helped date the site archaeologically. The Kings of the Pala dynasty were devotees of the goddess Mowlakshi, and there are also temples devoted to the gods Shiva, Durga, Kali, and Vishnu. Today, only 72 temples remain intact, but they offer a unique economic opportunity to the village of Maluti.

THREATS
Neglect: The temples of Maluti have never been properly maintained, a problem which has lead to the crumbling and decay of exquisitely-carved stones, as well as uncontrolled growth of destructive vegetation.

Poor Drainage: The terracotta used to build the temples has alkalized as a result of poor drainage, posing serious concern. Seepage of rainwater through cracks and fissures has also weakened the foundation and stability of the temples.
URGENCY
With proper restoration and maintenance, the temples have the potential to be a major source of economy in the small town of Maluti. But with no such plan in place, the temples are fast deteriorating beyond repair.
SIGNIFICANCE
The city of Taxila is home to an important archaeological site of great importance to the Pakistani cultural heritage. This vast complex of ruins includes a Mesolithic cave, four settlement sites, a number of Buddhist monasteries, and Moslem mosques and madrassahs. Each settlement site, belonging to a different time period, reveals the pattern of urban evolution over the course of five centuries, and the Bhir mound dates back to the sixth century BC.

Historically, Taxila also represented a crossroads for three major trade routes that bisected the country. In 1980, Taxila was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site with multiple locations. A recent article by The Guardian also ranked it as the top tourist destination in Pakistan.

THREATS
Insufficient Management: The historical monument of Sarai Karwan, located within Taxila, has been increasingly encroached upon by nearby developments in the area, including automobile garages, business centers, shops and houses. Officials have done little to protect the site, and parts of the monument are frequently used for garbage dumping. Dampness, pollution, and lack of proper maintenance have resulted in further destruction and decay of the monument.

Uncontrolled Mining: Continuous quarrying and stone blasting in areas in and around the Taxila valley has caused substantial damage to 24 excavated archaeological sites and monuments. Even priceless antiques displayed in the Taxila Museum have been damaged; constant vibrations from blasting caused objects to slowly slide towards the edges of shelves in their display cases until they fell and broke. Local government has failed to regulate mining in the area, and thousands of trucks and machines use the nearby road system on a constant basis.
**Looting:** Several ancient artifacts were stolen from the Buddhist monastery, and illegal excavations conducted with the help of heavy equipment further damaged the site. Police were informed of the incident and arrested numerous diggers, but all were eventually released without any further legal action. Additional measures of enforcement are essential to protect sites from activities like this in the future.

**War and Conflict:** Over 2,000 priceless objects housed inside the Archaeological Museum of Taxila are vulnerable to theft and terrorist attacks as the museum has insufficient security measures in place. The museum has been the target of several threats from militants in the past, and foreign governments advise their excavation teams not to visit the site if they visit the region.

**URGENCY**
Archaeological and heritage sites within Taxila are threatened on numerous fronts. Only through the cooperation and unification of all levels of local government and agencies will these sites be able to weather the myriad of risks they currently face.
ANI, TURKEY
City of 1001 Churches

Like many medieval buildings of Ani, the remains of the Church of the Redeemer is about to collapse. Photo: Romel Jacinto

SIGNIFICANCE
On the border of modern Turkey and Armenia lie the remains of a naturally defended city, Ani, settled since prehistoric times, colonised by the Urartians in the 7th Century BC and established as the Armenian capital in the 10th Century, Ani sits astride a deep gorge of the Arpacay river and is named after the Persian Aphrodite. Anehid.

Architecturally, Ani with its many churches which later served to inspire European Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, was decorated with exquisite carvings and wall paintings depicting both Christian themes and scenes from the history of Armenia, has been considered to have rivalled Constantinople in its beauty.

Ani, which today lies utterly in ruins, tells a great but tragic story, having been conquered by the Seljuks and then besieged by other invaders, finally being abandoned following earthquakes, in the 14th century.

Since those times, Ani, unprotected from the harsh weather of the southern Caucasus has struggled to keep itself safe from vandals and looters and its stones have been robbed by evolving village communities for construction and defence.

Much of its haunting beauty remains. The main and most impressive building in the ruined ensemble, the Cathedral, was built in 1001 and laid the foundation for the region’s famous Armenian-Romanesque style, which a century later evolved to patterns of building used all over Europe.
Today, Ani reminds us of the lost power of the once strong and powerful Armenian empire, and many are motivated to preserve the survivals. Urgent measures need to be implemented now in order to stop the deterioration of city ensembles like Ani and to begin focused conservation work.

**THREATS**

**Insufficient management:** Ani has suffered through several attempts at restoration, which were organized and conducted in the technologies available at the time and now are seen to be inappropriate. Its buildings require highly skilled, ethical and well planned conservation intervention, led by professionals, to guide this process in the least harmful way, not only for the ruins but for the historical levels that surround them.

**Looting and vandalism:** A number of the tourists and visitors who have come to Ani over the whole 20th century have shown little respect for the cultural and historical value of the place, looters, vandals and settlers encroaching on the ruins have further damaged the remains.

**Neglect:** Since its historical abandonment, Ani has received no proper attention and the situation has been worsened by the fact that Ani has straddled a relatively hostile international border which until recent times, in a military region, had never been under full government protection, and had no recognized status as an archaeological preserve.

**URGENCY**

Political issues, natural causes, and human factors, together with a lack of funding and proper attention to the site, have all contributing to the extreme decay and dilapidation of the ancient city ensemble of architecture. Proper funding and preservation work can still save Ani’s beauty for future generations, but action to support Turkish intentions to save the many surviving structures must be taken now.
CHERSONESOS, UKRAINE
Largest Classical Archaeological site on the Black Sea

SIGNIFICANCE
To today’s historians, Chersonesos is evidence of an ancient civilization’s ability to plan, design, and build a city as early as 6th century BC. More than two thousand years of unique human history are buried beneath Chersonesos’ current remains, which are now made up of heaps of stones and abandoned mounts.

Chersonesos was once one of the richest cities in the Black Sea area, famous for its extensive and successful trading, agriculture and industry, including large wine production and exclusive coinage. Chersonesos was the only city in the region that was distinctly planned and divided into perfect squares. The planning and construction were so well done that Chersonesos stayed unchanged for centuries, only having minor renovations. At some point in its history, the city had over 4000 unique buildings.

Today, Chersonesos is an invaluable site for historians, with enormous potential for both archaeological discovery and the study of hundreds of generations of human history.

THREATS
Insufficient management: A lack of management on site currently leaves Chersonesos unprotected from natural and human-caused destruction. Many tourists and local visitors come every day to the archeological site, where they can easily access and damage artifacts before they have been properly excavated and identified by archaeologists.
**Encroachment:** The pressures of modernization in areas near Chersonesos, combined with a lack of funding from any source to protect the ancient city, has made encroachment a serious threat to Chersonesos' long-term stability.

**URGENCY**
Chersonesos has been designated a National Archaeological Preserve, but more needs to be done to protect the ancient city from being overrun by both headstrong tourists (see image below) and modern developers in the area.

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Tourists climb on fragile basilica remains. Photo: Chris Cleere
**SIGNIFICANCE**
With evidence of settlement dating back some 10,000 years, Syria’s capital, Damascus, is regarded by historians as the world’s oldest continuously-inhabited city. Before rising to great significance in the year 635 under the Umayyad dynasty, the city witnessed the rule of Aramaeans and Assyrians, Persians and Seleucids, Romans and Byzantines. From 1516 to 1918, it existed under Ottoman occupation, and though much of the city was destroyed during this time, there remain a wealth of historical sites dating back to many different periods—some of whose ruins remain buried beneath the city’s modern level. Damascus was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.

**THREATS**

**Insufficient Management:** With such focus in the area on modernization and development, little has been done to preserve or protect the old town core. A growing number of residents have moved in search of more modern dwellings, abandoning ancient buildings to deteriorate and be sought out by developers.

**Encroachment:** Because Old Damascus lies at the heart of Syria’s capital, it is threatened constantly by the encroachment of modern businesses and developers. In recent years, ancient buildings along the old rampart walls have been demolished as part of a redevelopment scheme, while much has also been made of proposed new motorways in the area.
URGENCY
A recent addition to the World Monuments Fund’s Watch List of most endangered sites, the ancient city of Damascus is at risk of being swallowed up completely by its modern surroundings. And even if a protection zone is established around the old town center (a resolution was apparently made by the Syrian government in early 2010) the area’s crumbling historical sites are in dire need of preservation.

Abandoned Ottoman-era building in Old Damascus City awaiting demolition. Photo: Sean Long
FAMAGUSTA, NORTH CYPRUS
Ancient Maritime City of Crusader Kings

The remains of St. Symeon Church in Famagusta. Photo: Laurence Livermore

SIGNIFICANCE
Founded as early as 3rd century BC, Famagusta, now a city on the east coast of Cyprus, was once an important port for trading and political relationships between the Near East and Europe.

Its name in Greek means “buried in the sand” — a quite apt description of the site today, given its current ruinous state. For centuries, however, Famagusta enjoyed great wealth, and was once considered the richest city in the world. It was also a major business center, and its grounds accumulated a great number of artifacts of that epoch. The city’s history contains memories of the coronation of the Crusader kings of Jerusalem, which were held in St. Nicholas Cathedral in the main square.

After the Ottomans conquered Famagusta, its European heritage was neglected and left vulnerable to earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters, which gradually turned it to ruins. Today, Famagusta still retains many relics of its great past, such as Cathedrals and parts of the tombs of religious and civil heroes, but more needs to be done to protect its historic monuments.

THREATS
Insufficient management: Famagusta now lies in the North side of Cyprus, which is occupied by Turkish army. It has no official designation as a historical site. The city urgently
needs archaeological work to preserve what has been left, and to restore what has been destroyed.

**Inappropriate construction:** During the 1970s, Famagusta attracted millions of tourists, mostly because of its azure sea and picturesque landscape, but this left the ancient ruins unprotected against the large crowds. The massive construction of beach hotels and entertainment centers worsened the situation. Since then, some parts of the modern city have been abandoned, making it more difficult for the ancient monuments to attract attention and be preserved.

**Neglect:** No serious excavation, construction or preservation works have been done on the territory of ancient Famagusta. While several world organizations have tried to draw attention to the importance of the archaeological works there, the officials of Northern Cyprus have shown little interest in giving a special status to the place.

**URGENCY**
Lack of attention, lack of funding, and gradual deterioration of the monuments in Famagusta are threatening the ancient city’s potential for survival. Much needs to be done immediately in order to stop deterioration of the site and to protect its heritage for generations to come.
SIGNIFICANCE

Khirbat al-Mafjar, more commonly known as Hisham’s Palace, is the archaeological remains of an Umayyad winter palace located in the Jordan Valley, approximately two kilometres north of Jericho. Considered one of the best preserved Umayyad palaces in the Middle East, but its preservation is suffering due to insufficient management.

The palace, which was never completed except for a Roman-style bathhouse, was destroyed by a major earthquake around 747 AD, and was subsequently covered over by sand and left forgotten until archaeologists discovered and explored it between 1934 and 1948.

Today, the site’s ruins suggest evidence of a palace, a thermal bath complex, a mosque, and a massive fountained courtyard. It also features a wealth of exquisitely-colored stucco and rich mosaic. Since its re-discovery more than 70 years ago, Hisham’s Palace has been explored enough to give archaeologists a basic idea of what exists there, but further objectives have been made recently to record all surviving remains before they disappear as a result of urban development in the area.
THREATS

Encroachment: The rapid urban development of Jericho, as well as expansion of agricultural activity in the area, are seriously threatening archaeologists’ access to the palace’s disappearing ruins, much of which remain unexplored.

Insufficient Management: Having remained untouched and unmaintained for more than a thousand years, the remains of Hisham’s Palace, including an extensive water management network, have been greatly damaged by both natural causes and invasive development. Important structures such as walls and bridges have also been left to collapse.

URGENCY

With such strong emphasis on urbanization in the area, the archaeological resources at Hisham’s Palace are disappearing at an alarming date. Today’s archaeologists seriously believe that, if not preserved now, the remains of Hisham’s Palace could be lost forever without even being properly documented.
LAMU, KENYA
Former Trade Capital of East Africa

SIGNIFICANCE
Lamu is the largest town on Lamu Island, which is in turn part of the Lamu archipelago in Kenya. It is also the headquarters of Lamu town and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001. It is one of the oldest and best preserved living settlements among the Swahili towns on the East African coast, with origins dating back to the 12th century AD. Its buildings display the long history and development of Swahili technology.

With more than 700 years of continuous development, it was once the most important trade centre in East Africa, before being overtaken by Zanzibar and Mozambique. It has also retained an important religious function and is a significant center for education in Swahili and Islamic culture.

THREATS
Inappropriate Construction: Although plans are still being confirmed, there is a proposal in place for a large port development project along the coast from Lamu town. The Lamu port is expected to have a total of 22 berths with a quay that will occupy 1,000 acres. Other proposed infrastructure would include a railway, highway, pipeline, oil refinery and oil storage tanks. A development of this scale and scope would result in unprecedented new levels of population growth and put strong pressures on both the cultural and natural values of the region.

Insufficient Management: Lamu relies on the presence of fresh water for its continued viability, and nearby water catchments are threatened by encroachment and illegal development. This delicate resource needs to be protected in order for Lamu to remain the living town that was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Neglect: Several buildings in Lamu have been allowed to become quite dilapidated, and unless major restoration work is done, many could potentially collapse and cause structural damage to other buildings nearby.
URGENCY

If the Lamu petrol port project comes to fruition, the increased traffic and modern port facilities it will bring to the region will seriously threaten the outstanding universal value of this site. Proper safeguards need to be developed to ensure the ongoing protection of Lamu before it becomes swallowed by the development and its new industry.
NINEVEH, IRAQ
Ancient Jewel of the Assyrian Empire

Part of the massive mudbrick gated walls that surround Nineveh.
(Photo by lachicaphoto, Flickr, CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0)

SIGNIFICANCE
Located in northern Iraq near the modern city of Mosul, Nineveh served as the capital of the Assyrian Empire from 705 to 612 BC, and was described in the Book of Jonah as an “exceedingly great city.” In 612, after it was attacked and reduced to rubble by a combination of Medes, Babylonians, and Susianians, Nineveh was left lost and buried until its rediscovery by archaeologists in the mid-19th century.

Today, many of Nineveh’s ruins have been excavated and explored, including several palaces made up of exquisite rooms and reliefs. Many of the ancient city’s massive gates and mudbrick walls have also been unearthed, including Mashki, one of its most famous gates, which has been reconstructed and now stands as a popular tourist attraction. Though Nineveh’s former glory as heart of the Assyrian Empire did not last long, there is much to be learned from the city’s ruins — so long as they’re protected.

THREATS
Looting and vandalism: Like many of Iraq’s historical sites, looting has been a major problem in Nineveh. In recent years, fragments of documented and photographed artifacts have appeared for sale in international markets, and evidence of holes dug in chamber floors is suggestive of past looting. Vandalism has also been a problem for these already-endangered reliefs.
Encroachment: Because of Nineveh’s proximity to major city Mosul, there is constant danger of encroachment as the surrounding suburbs expand. Major development has already occurred within the ancient city’s walls, including the digging of sewer and water lines in unexplored land, much of which likely contains artifacts left by former civilizations. Also slowing the exploration of Nineveh has been its status as a holy city, which disallows such types of excavation.

A modern city has recently been built over the core archaeological area of this cradle of civilization sites, one of the most irreplaceable in the world. Photo: GHN, Digital Globe.
Insufficient Management: Without proper roofing for protection, Nineveh’s ancient walls and reliefs are becoming more and more damaged by natural elements every day. Exploration of the city is an important objective at this time, but preservation measures would go a long way as well.

URGENCY
Nineveh has already been heavily attacked by looters, and now development pressures from nearby Mosul have begun to take their toll as well. If this encroachment continues, Nineveh’s ancient remains could again be buried forever.
MAHASTHANGARH, BANGLADESH
Early Major Urban Archaeological Site

Lack of drainage and maintenance are seeing rapid deterioration of this 2,000 year old archaeological site. Photos: P.K. Nigoyi

SIGNIFICANCE

Mahasthangarh is one of the earliest urban archaeological sites in South Asia, dating to the 3rd century BC. It was the ancient capital of Pundravardhana, and the fortified area was in use until the 18th century AD. This archaeological site from the 3rd century is still held in great sanctity by the Hindus.

THREATS

Insufficient Management: Lack of expertise and funding has lead to severe deterioration of the archaeological site. The various terracotta artworks within the site have suffered from serious damage as a result of lack of proper maintenance, shortage of manpower, funding constraints, and heavy rainfall. Furthermore, poor water drainage accompanied by high levels of salinity in the soils have also contributed to the decay of terracotta sculptures. Uncontrolled vegetation is also a problem.

Looting and Vandalism: Due to lack of security and the unmet need for a protective wall surrounding the site, the area has been vandalized numerous times. Looting also occurs regularly, and many visitors and local antique dealers have been seen removing items from the site. There have also been reports from reliable sources of site administrators stealing artifacts.

URGENCY

Deterioration of the archaeological site has becomes severe and requires immediate intervention in order to salvage the remaining ruins and prevent further loss and destruction.
A field of banana trees, seen right, is tended to atop an ancient city wall gate. Tourists walk atop fragile ancient ruins. Photo: GHN
AYUTTHAYA, THAILAND
Venice of the East: Former Siamese Capital

Ayutthaya as seen from the Chao Praya river with high waters. Photo: Francesco Badarin, UNESCO

SIGNIFICANCE
Founded in 1350, Ayutthaya became the second Siamese capital after Sukhothai and was one of the most important economic and trade centers of the region. It remained the capital until it was destroyed by the Burmese army in 1767. The remaining ruins, noted for their towers and gigantic monasteries, give modern generations a sense of its past splendor. The remains became a historical park in 1976, and this park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.

THREATS
Natural Disaster/Flooding: Ayutthaya is an island city on Chao Praya River, and serious flooding over the past two decades has resulted in structural damage and eroded the soil foundations of many of its temples. Many of the temples have been restored using clay brick, which can deteriorate in water. As a result, one of the complexes (called Wat Chai Wattanaram) could eventually collapse. The Thai Parliament has often failed to allocate emergency funds for these sites, while only the most pressing repairs are completed.

Insufficient Management: The Government of Thailand allocates all finances used in the management and preservation of the historic city. However, this budget does not meet the requested amount in the Master Plan due to the world’s economic situation. As a result, it has been deemed necessary to apply for additional funding from other international funding agencies.
URGENCY
Although flood levels have never reached the same extreme highs as in 1995, flooding is a regular occurrence and a worrisome threat for the site, especially since the structure is constantly deteriorating. Although flooding is an irreversible trend, more anti-flooding measures need to be implemented to provide the site with stability.
SIGNIFICANCE
Intramuros was built by the Spanish in the 16th century AD, and is the oldest district of the city of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. The Latin translation of intramuros means “within the walls” and refers to the enclosure of the fortress, as the structure was surrounded by high walls and moats. Fort Santiago is a defense fortress built into the city walls of Santiago, and was constructed for Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.

Much of Intramuros was severely damaged or destroyed by the US Air Force during World War II. Intramuros endured heavy shelling, and by the end of the conflict, the only untouched structure was the San Agustin Church. Intramuros became a special historic zone in 1979, and during the 1980s the Intramuros Administration spearheaded a major restoration. The walled city is now the only district of Manila where Spanish-era influences have remained. Fort Santiago is now a museum that houses well-preserved legacies of the Spanish government.

THREATS
Modernization: Although much of the modern development that has changed the face of Manila has occurred outside the walls of Intramuros, several major chains have opened outlets inside the fortress walls, including Starbucks and McDonald’s. Additionally, the old moats that originally surrounded Intramuros have since been filled and converted into a golf course.
Highrise hotels and golf courses are surrounding the historic site of Fort Santiago and Intramuros destroying viewscapes and authenticity. Photo: GHN.

**Development Pressures:** Intramuros is currently managed by the Intramuros Authority and the Department of Tourism. The City of Manila, meanwhile, has been positioning itself to regain control of Intramuros without providing a specific statement as to why they want to become its caretakers again. There is rampant speculation that the city wishes to capitalize on Intramuros’ real estate potential, replacing the heritage and history with high rises and malls.

**Neglect:** Concerns have been voiced over the years about the appearance of Intramuros; the interior has often looked shabby or in poor condition, with poor lighting in many dark areas of the city. As a result, administration is worried that tourists will steer clear of the heritage site due to safety concerns.

**URGENCY**
If nothing is done to properly assert Intramuros’ right to preserve its rich heritage, there is a strong likelihood that it will be soon overrun by rampant commercialism. If indeed this happens, the efforts to rebuild this jewel of Manila after its destruction in World War II will have been in vain.
Baluarte de San Diego was designed and built by Jesuit priest Antonio Sedeno from 1586 to 1587, and is one of the oldest stone fortifications in Intramuros. It was destroyed during the Battle of Manila in 1945. Restoration began in 1979 and completed in 1992. Photo: Intramuros Administration.

Poverty in the streets of Intramuros. Plans in the works are to remove local people from the historic district. Photo: GHF.
Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage Sites in the Developing World