

Chronology of the Aapravasi Ghat Nomination Process (2001-2006)

- ❖ **December 2001**-The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act is enacted by the National Assembly of Mauritius.
- ❖ **February 2002**-His Excellency Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, visits the Aapravasi Ghat site.
- ❖ **July 2002**- The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund is officially established under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Culture. A board to manage the AGTF is set up and a long term plan of work is devised.
- ❖ **October 2002**-Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth visits UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and requests His Excellency Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, to begin procedures to inscribe the Aapravasi Ghat site on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.
- ❖ **December 2002-January 2003**- Archaeological excavations at the Aapravasi Ghat site gets underway under the guidance of Mr. Chowdhury, Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Mauritius. A detailed archaeological survey/documentation of the Aapravasi Ghat site is undertaken. During the same period, intensive archival work is initiated to locate all possible sources of information on the Aapravasi Ghat site and its structural history. Furthermore, documents and plans are obtained from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, the Mauritius National Archives, and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.
- ❖ **March 2003**-Dr. Wangari and Mr. Saliba of the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO arrive in Mauritius and assist the Ministry of Arts and Culture to prepare the Tentative List of Mauritius.
- ❖ **May 2003**-The first meeting of the Aapravasi Ghat Consultative Committee is held at the MGI and ICOMOS experts from India visit the Aapravasi Ghat site. The second phase of the archaeological excavations starts at the Aapravasi Ghat.
- ❖ **July 2003**: The ICOMOS submits a report on the Aapravasi Ghat site
- ❖ **November 2003**-Two publications are launched by the AGTF namely *Aapravasi Ghat: Past & Present, Vol I: History & Aapravasi Ghat: Past & Present, Vol II: Archaeology*. These two publications represent the fruit of one year's worth of research work and archaeological excavation and documentation of the Aapravasi Ghat site.
- ❖ **July 2004**-The Aapravasi Ghat Conservation Project is launched by the former Mauritian Prime Minister. An exhibition showing archival plans of Aapravasi Ghat structures dating from 1865 is also inaugurated. The first AGTF newsletter which contains articles related to conservation and the indenture heritage and sites in Mauritius is launched.

- ❖ **August and December 2004**-Meetings of the Aapravasi Ghat's Advisory Committees on history, heritage, documentation etc are held. Various documents needed for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Nomination Dossier are collected by the AGTF team from the Mauritius Archives, the National Library, and various ministries and government bodies.
- ❖ **August and November 2004**-The writing-up of the World Heritage Nomination Dossier is undertaken by the AGTF team in line with UNESCO guidelines and format.
- ❖ **November 2004**-Peter Stott, UNESCO Consultant and World Heritage Centre Consultant, visits the Aapravasi Ghat and holds a workshop with the AGTF and all stakeholders. The launching of the pamphlet entitled 'The Conservation of the Aapravasi Ghat site' prepared by Munish Pandit of ICOMOS India.
- ❖ **December 2004-January 2005**-The main part of the dossier is written and edited by the AGTF team with a special focus on the justification and the Management Plan. The dossier goes through more than two dozen revisions.
- ❖ **January 2005**-The Aapravasi Ghat's World Heritage Dossier is vetted by the State Law Office and submitted for consideration to the Cabinet of Ministers.
- ❖ **January 2005**- The Government of Mauritius decides to send the Aapravasi Ghat Nomination dossier to the World Heritage Centre for inscription on the World Heritage List.
- ❖ **January 2005**-The AGTF Nomination Dossier is sent to UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris on Monday 31st January 2005.
- ❖ **February 2005**-The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund is informed by UNESCO that its Nomination Dossier is on the list of 45 sites being considered for World Heritage Site status.
- ❖ **May 2005**-The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund organizes a thanksgiving ceremony for stakeholders who helped in the preparation of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Nomination Dossier
- ❖ **July 2005**-The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund took part in the 29th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Durban, South Africa.
- ❖ **September 2005**-Mr. Andrew Hall of ICOMOS South Africa arrives in Mauritius for a detailed evaluation of the Aapravasi Ghat's application for inscription on the World Heritage List. The visit includes
 - The inspection of the Aapravasi Ghat site and the Buffer Zone
 - An overview of the research being done by the Research Unit
 - Meetings with the Scientific and Technical Committee and Consultative Committees are held.

- ❖ **December 2005-January 2006-** Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee and Consultative Committee are held in the presence of Mr. Pandit with the objective of preparing the draft Management Plan. The Management Plan Committee is formed. This Committee is chaired by the Minister of Arts and Culture and is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Management Plan. Furthermore, other committees and sub-committees are also set up to look into major issues such as funding for projects involved in the Management Plan and Management of the Buffer Zone.
- ❖ **January 2006-** The Draft Management Plan of the Aapravasi Ghat is submitted to the World Heritage Centre in Paris.
- ❖ **June 2006-** The Prime Minister sets up a Ministerial Committee to finalise the Management Plan and prepare for the lobbying needed for the inscription of Aapravasi Ghat as a World Heritage Site.
- ❖ **June 2006-** The finalised Management Plan of the Aapravasi Ghat is submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
- ❖ **July 2006-** The Mauritian Delegation leaves for Vilnius, Lithuania via Paris to attend the World Heritage Committee and lobby for the inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat.
- ❖ **July 2006-** The World Heritage Committee inscribes Aapravasi Ghat on the World Heritage List.