PARTNERS

ACADEMIC COOPERATION

In Germany, the project is based on the cooperation of the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) and the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (HAdW).

KEY PARTNER NEPAL

SARAF FOUNDATION

Department of Archaeology

NETWORK OF PARTNERS

Mainz University of Applied Sciences
Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust
South Asia Institute Kathmandu
UNESCO Office Kathmandu
University Library Heidelberg

FUNDING

ARCADIA
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Cover image: Royal Palace Patan (Lalitpur); photo Astrid Zotter
The Nepal Heritage Documentation Project (NHDP) records endangered monuments as well as intangible cultural heritage of Nepal. It responds to dramatic urban transformation, social change as well as natural disaster, such as the 2015 earthquake.

A selection of more than 400 monuments and monument complexes from the royal cities of Patan and Kathmandu comprises the core body of material during the first two years of documentation.

The new heritage inventory includes a new survey as well as historical documents such as maps, photographs, drawings, inscriptions and oral histories related to the built heritage and socio-religious practice. Besides its focus on monuments, it also prominently features public arcaded rest-houses (phalcās), that form an important part of architectural diversity throughout urban life in the Kathmandu valley.

Designed to be of avail for the key stakeholder Nepal, the documentation project will facilitate the management, preservation and further protection of Nepal’s unique body of national and community heritage.

The NHDP also hopes to set the stage for potential growth and further research in different areas related to cultural heritage, such as history and art history, anthropology and philology.

Committed to Open Access, information will also be publicly available online. Addressing many different audiences, and including the general public beyond national borders, the project hopes to raise awareness for endangered cultural heritage.

AIMS

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DATABASE DANAM

DANAM, the Digital Archive of Nepalese Arts and Monuments is hosting findings from decades of heritage research in Nepal. Its datasets include structured information about the monuments' history and iconography, monument descriptions, architectural drawings, inscriptions and site plans as well as a broad photographic documentation.

DANAM is based upon Arches, an open source platform based on graph technology and designed for managing heritage repositories. Its content will be shareable and interoperable in order to secure long-term access, storage and usability of the monument data inventory.