Global Heritage Network User’s Guide v4.0
January 2012

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Introduction

The purpose of the Global Heritage Network (GHN) is to raise awareness, facilitate debate and collaboratively seek solutions to the increasing threats facing cultural heritage sites in developing countries by bringing together concerned citizens around the world with experts and students working in cultural heritage site conservation and development in a dynamic and information-rich environment. GHN especially seeks to promote exchange between international experts and local conservation leaders in developing countries in critical need of expertise and conservation resources.

To achieve these goals, GHN has created a scalable public website built around Google Earth that provides information on over 500 cultural heritage sites in the developing world, supplemented by photographs, videos, Google Earth map layers (to show, for example, site plans), site reports, threat documentation and a library of conservation-related electronic documents. Users can add their own content to the GHN Community, a social networking platform featuring site-specific groups, discussion forums and more.

With these resources and the ability to network with other users of the website, GHN allows members of the cultural heritage preservation community to rapidly and efficiently locate needed information and expertise for their own projects while also sharing their own experiences and knowledge with their colleagues and the general public. Ultimately this approach will lead to a greater awareness of the threats facing cultural heritage sites around the world and provide the knowledge base and expertise to identify the most appropriate and ethical solutions to mitigate those threats through conservation science, planning, partnerships and collaboration at the local, regional, national and international levels.

GHN is an initiative of Global Heritage Fund (GHF), a non-profit organization established in 2002 in Palo Alto, California. GHF’s mission is to save humanity’s most significant and endangered cultural heritage sites in developing countries and regions by providing international expertise and critical funding. To accomplish this, GHF works with in-country partners, national governments, NGOs and universities around the world to implement a comprehensive four- to six-year Preservation by Design® methodology that comprises site management planning, conservation science, community involvement and strategic partnerships to help ensure the sites’ long-term sustainable preservation. To learn more about GHF, visit www.globalheritagefund.org

Finally, please let us know if you find any inaccuracies on the GHN website. While we have done our best to check everything, it is not always possible to catch all mistakes. Also, while we monitor the contributions made to the website, we do not moderate all of the content so do notify us immediately if there is any offensive or inappropriate material posted. All suggestions to improve this website are also gratefully accepted.

Thanks,

The GHN Team
GHN Site Navigation

Quickly and easily browse through GHN’s vast database of the most endangered Cultural Heritage sites in the developing world. Well over 500 in total!

To begin using GHN, click on the GHN Sites drop-down tab on the top left-hand side of the screen.

This will open up GHN’s main site navigation window, where you can search for sites by name, or search by site Threat level, region, or country.

**Threat Levels:** There are 4 possible threat levels that the cultural heritage sites in GHN’s massive database can be ranked with:

- **Destroyed (Black):** Sites that have been completely destroyed due to natural disasters, looting, war & conflict, development pressures, or other factors.
- **Rescue Needed (Red):** The cultural heritage site is in critical need of conservation intervention to ensure its long term preservation.
- **At Risk (Orange):** The cultural heritage site is at risk from one or more serious threats.
- **Stable (Green):** The current condition of the cultural heritage site is stable and largely free from serious threats.

GHN has divided the world into 6 regions, for your browsing ease. Specifying the region in the drop-down prompt will

1. Show all sites from the region if no search parameters have been entered.
2. Or, if search parameters have been entered, selecting a region will refine your search and show only those sites that fall within the specified region that meet search criteria.

Searching by country is identical to searching by region (as above), where you can specify a country and see all sites in that country, or refine a search to see only the sites of a certain country that meet your search parameters.
However, another innovative way to navigate between sites is directly within the GoogleEarth plug-in.

GHN sites are represented in the GoogleEarth plug-in by colored circular icons that correspond with sites’ threat levels. By clicking on one of these icons, you zoom into the site and the “Site Control Panel” launches, which contains a plethora of information at your fingertips!

The Site Control Panel features numerous important resources for each site in GHN. At the top left portion of the panel is listed the type of site that the selected cultural heritage site is (ie GHF Project, UNESCO World Heritage Site, UNESCO Tentative List Site, or National Heritage Site).

The top right portion of the panel contains a link to Collapse / Expand the Site Control Panel, which is quite useful when you need a full view of the Google Earth screen. You can click and drag the Panel around over the GoogleEarth plug-in by clicking on the top title bar and dragging it to the desired location.

Below these two items appears the Site Name & Country for reference, preceded by the site’s threat level icon.
Below the site title, the various Threats to the site are listed (where applicable). These threat types may include: Development Pressures, Unsustainable Tourism, Insufficient Management, Looting, War & Conflict, and Natural Disasters.

The Site Control Panel includes two tabs that both contain unique information:

- **Overview** – contains the first paragraph of the Wikipedia article that relates to the selected site. For GHF Projects, the overview section will incorporate introductory text from the Project’s webpage on the GHF website. Clicking on the “Learn More” link opens up the corresponding Wikipedia / GHF Project page in a separate pop-up window. To learn more about Wikipedia and GHN, please see the “Add To Site Wiki” section in this User Guide.

- **Map Layers** – The Map Layers tab houses some of the most exciting content on GHN: the maps, 3D models and Satellite Imagery for many sites. This is the place where available map layers can be selected or unselected, and seen immediately in the Google Earth plug-in. (More on this below). Included in this tab is the Legend, which lists the many icons and objects you will see at use inside the GoogleEarth plug-in on GHN. This Legend is general, and many site-specific map layers may incorporate different styles than are depicted in this legend.

- **Documents** – This tab contains all the site-specific documents that have been added to the site in questions. They are broken down into different categories such as Planning, Conservation, Community and Partnerships. These categories follow the Preservation by Design® guidelines that GHF have established for site protection and long-term sustainability.
Viewing Photos and Videos in GHN’s Media Player

The vast majority of sites in GHN have excellent photos available. To view them, simply click on the photo thumbnail or Slideshow | Videos links below it, and a media-viewer pop-up window will open.

This window includes a row of picture thumbnails and a scroll bar below it that allow you to browse and select between all available photos for the specific site you have selected. Clicking on one of these thumbnails brings up the full image below, and also includes photographer name, date taken, and description when available.
Working With GoogleEarth Map Layers in GHN

One of the most exciting parts of the Global Heritage Network is its online database of Map Layers loaded onto the GoogleEarth platform. For many sites, map layers are available that detail archaeological site plans, heritage site zoning, etc.

To begin visualizing Map Layers in GHN, select a cultural heritage site from GHN’s database or by browsing the GoogleEarth map. Once a site is selected, the Site Control Panel should appear as a floating layer above the GoogleEarth plug-in. Click on the “Map Layers” tab in the Site Control Panel to view the available layers for the selected site.

**Please keep in mind that while GHN strives to source Map Layers for as many sites as we can, there are not always data available for many of them. If you would like to view sites with full Map Layers, please visit the **Featured Sites** as well as **GHF Project Sites**. In this example, we will view the GHF Project site of Banteay Chhmar.**

Clicking on the “Map Layers” tab reveals a categorized list of all the map data that has been uploaded to your selected cultural heritage site.

There are 4 types of Map Layers that are uploaded to GHN:

1. **Photos & Videos** – These Map Layers are “geo-tagged” photos or videos, meaning that they have been given a precise location on earth where they were taken. Clicking on them reveals a pop-up balloon with a photo/video and a short description.

2. **Satellite Imagery & Maps** – This category of Map Layers is extremely important for monitoring the changes that a site has undergone over time, and in turn managing these cultural heritage properties. **Satellite imagery** from different years has been uploaded for many sites. In addition, **2D maps** have been accurately “draped” over the landscape as a way to gain further perspective of sites.

3. **Site Layers** – This Map Layer category is made up of general site layers, and may include 3D Models, site plans, site zoning plans, etc.

4. **Threats** – An important layer category that features the harmful threats that face a given cultural heritage site. These may include looting locations, places of improper conservation / restoration or other timely threats.
For this example, only the “Archaeological site Plan” layer in the Site Layers subcategory is chosen from the list. By selecting it, the map layer is immediately loaded into the GoogleEarth plug-in map (see below).

Since the base imagery in GoogleEarth isn’t high resolution, GHN has added some to our database. Under the Satellite Imagery & Maps category, select “2009 GeoEye-1 Imagery (April 24th)” for the list. This will load high resolution imagery and give you a clearer picture of the site and its surroundings.

** Please note that some layers (including 3D Models, Satellite Imagery, and Map Overlays) may take longer to load onto GoogleEarth as many have large file sizes. Please be patient. **

Now we will activate the available geo-tagged Photos for this site, so that we may view them in the GoogleEarth plug-in. Please click on the Photos & Videos category within the Map Layers
tab to see all the available geo-tagged photos for the selected site. You can choose to turn each geo-tagged photo/video on individually by selecting the “check boxes” next to each photo, or you may select the “all” link. Alternatively, you may wish to turn off all photo icons on GoogleEarth to get a better view of the site imagery. To do this, click on the “none” link.

Selected photos (individual or all) will immediately appear as icons in the GoogleEarth map. Clicking on a photo/video icon will open up a pop-up balloon inside the GoogleEarth map that displays a medium-sized image directly over the GoogleEarth plugin.

To become a Site Coordinator, with the capability to add Map Layer data, please refer to the How You Can Help section in this User Guide.

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Add to Site Wikipedia Article

GHN derives its site overview information from related Wikipedia articles. It does this by using a “feed” that draws summarized content from Wikipedia and puts that info into a ‘Site Overview’ window at the bottom of the Explore page.

In order to add information or change inaccuracies within the site descriptions in GHN, one must first edit the “host” Wikipedia article that the site overview draws from. This must be done outside of GHN in Wikipedia, using their framework. Simply click on the “Learn More” link at the bottom of the ‘Overview’ tab. This takes you to the host article on Wikipedia where you can begin editing the article immediately.

To begin editing, click on the “edit this page” link at the top of the page.


Then you can learn more about what goes into editing a page and what you need to do to make a basic edit. The following web pages are great places to start:


Other helpful links to get you familiarized with Wikipedia and achieving quality standards:


Once you have made a basic edit to a Wikipedia page that had an error or omission of verifiable information, the GHN site description will be updated within 24 hours of your edit.

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Introduction to the GHN Community (Ning)

The Global Heritage Network has established a dynamic online community via the powerful social networking platform, Ning. It will serve to foster an important international dialogue about the state of our Global Heritage and the many severe and pressing threats it faces.

There are a number of ways to reach the GHN Community. Firstly, you may visit by using the following URL: http://globalheritagenetwork.ning.com/

You may also visit by clicking on the appropriate link on the Global Heritage Fund website.

However, the most convenient and useful way to navigate to the GHN Community page is through GHN Sites top navigation bar. By clicking on the GHN Community tab you are taken directly to the GHN Community.

Once you are on the GHN Community homepage, you should sign up for an account for immediate, full access to the community and its various resources. The “Sign Up” / “Sign In” links are located on the right hand side of the GHN Community homepage.

The sign-up process is quick, painless, and will grant you immediate access to the GHN Community once your membership is approved. This typically happens within 24 hours.
Before you can complete your GHN Community membership you will be prompted to:

- Enter email address
- Create and confirm password
- Enter Date of Birth
- Fill out “Captcha” security phrase

Then click the Sign Up button. You will be redirected back to the GHN Community homepage, where you can now join Groups, contribute to the Forums, write Blog posts, and Network with Cultural Heritage conservation professionals and enthusiasts around the globe!

Navigating the GHN Community

The GHN Community is made up of a few key components, as illustrated by the main navigation tabs at the top of the GHN Community page:

The main GHN Community webpage is the central hub for most of the content and updates on the GHN Community, so we recommend that you bookmark it. At the top, the Blog Posts section features the latest and most exciting content that members have posted on GHN Community, giving other members quick and easy access to the hottest topics. Below the Blog Posts section will be a complete list of the Latest Activity on the GHN Community. Everything from new members, to new groups, to the members who have recently become friends, it will all appear on the Latest Activity feed!

On the left side of the Main GHN Community page, you will see the following:

Featured Groups – This section will display the currently featured Groups on GHN Community, with two links underneath: one called “+ Add a Group” which lets you do just that, and one called “View All” which lets you see the various Groups on GHN (more on Groups below).
Members List – This section offers a quick glimpse at some of the many current GHN Community members. It displays only 16 of them at a time, but you click on the thumbnail photo of the members in this list and get taken to their MyPage personal profile. Under the list, there appears two links: one called “+ Invite More” which allows you to send emails to your address book contacts, and “View All” which takes you to the Members page where you can view all current GHN members and administrators.

Forum – This section will allow users to catch a quick glimpse of the latest Forum activity that has taken place in the GHN Community Forums. Clicking on the titles of Forum posts in this list will take you directly to the Forums thread topic.

Creating and Updating your GHN Community Profile

In order to create and change a profile, you must first join the GHN Community (see above). Click on the My Profile tab of the main menu to view your current profile. Then, click on the “Settings” link on the right side of the page. This will take you to a new page where you can customize your profile by filling out personal information as well as a host of custom GHN questions like:

- Profession
- Professional Title
- Employer / Affiliation
- Skills / Specializations
- Regions of Interest / Expertise

You may also change your profile photo on this page as well.

When you have finished, please click on the Save button at the bottom of the screen. Your Profile has now been updated!
Joining Groups in the GHN Community

One of the best ways to get involved and make an impact on the GHN Community is to join or start Groups.

To reach the groups on GHN Community, click on the Groups tab of the top navigation bar.

This will take you to the Groups page where it will list that month’s Featured Groups at the top, then list all remaining groups below.

A GHN Community Group is a specific place where experts and lay people from around the globe can come together to discuss and learn more about specific sites, groups of sites, and other regional issues.

To join a group, select one from the list on the Groups page. Once there, select the “+ Join” link on the top right of the page as seen below.

Immediately after joining the group, you should see the following message:

“You’ve successfully joined _______ Group! You’ll receive email updates about new activity in this group. To stop receiving email updates, click the 'Stop Following' link.”

Now that you are a member, take a minute to peruse the main features that are common to most groups on GHN Community:

- **Information** – this section includes basic introductory information about the group and its stated purpose / goals. This section will also include a link to the site on GHN, where
you can explore the site in GoogleEarth and view photos / videos / maps of the site! Only groups related to specific cultural heritage sites will have links to GHN Explore.

- **Discussion Forum** – Each group on GHN Community will have its own discussion forum (separate from the main GHN Community forum) where members can discuss issues related to the group. This is a great place to post photos, discuss threats, and provide useful information such as articles or other links for the entire group to look at. Any time a new discussion is created, all of the Group’s members will receive an email update unless they have opted out.

- **RSS Updates** - Groups with GHN sites will also have a RSS section that updates whenever new content has been added to GHN. This is a great way to stay in touch with the latest GHN Explore activity.

- **Comment Wall** – In addition to all of the above, a comment wall is available at the bottom of the page. You may share a quick comment, question, or link here!

You may also send a message to the entire group to coordinate and network about the issues surrounding the site(s) related to the group!
Starting Forum Discussions in the GHN Community

A great way to share information, network with other GHN Community members, and ask questions is to start a discussion topic in the GHN Community Forums. You can navigate to the Forums page by clicking on the Forum tab in the main menu. Once there, you will see a list of the most recent active Forum topics. Clicking on their titles will open up that discussion “thread” and show you all of the comments replied to the original post.

To start a Forum discussion, simply click the “+Add a Discussion” link at the top right of the page as seen below:

This will take you to a new page where you can enter in the Discussion Title, draft your Forum post and format it however you wish, add tags, and attach a variety of files. You may upload photos, hyperlink text to URL addresses, and even edit your post with HTML.
Before you finish, you may also choose to share your new post on Facebook. Type in the message (that you’d like to appear with the Forum Discussion link) in the text box on the bottom right of the above screen. You may be asked to sign into your Facebook account if you haven’t already.

Finally, click on the Add Discussion button at the bottom right and your new discussion will be immediately added to GHN Community Forum.

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How You Can Help

The Global Heritage Network relies heavily on volunteer Site Coordinators to help manage and present each cultural heritage site on GHN’s GoogleEarth-based platform. This may include locating and uploading appropriate threat documentation & conservation reports, creating and uploading GoogleEarth KML data, and locating relevant information to add to GHN’s steadily growing online database of knowledge. There are many ways to get involved in GHN so that you may help protect cultural heritage globally. Perhaps the best way to do this is to become a Site Coordinator on GHN. That said, there are many ways in which you can help GHN!

In the Main Menu of GHN, click on the How You Can Help tab on the far right of the page.

This will take you to a special page on the GHF website where it details how you can help save our threatened Global Heritage Sites. There are a number of ways that you can make a difference!

Start a Discussion Group

GHN offers discussion groups in three broad categories: GHF Project Sites, GHN Sites and Thematic Groups. You can join any of these to get updates and participate in discussion or you can start your own as a discussion group moderator.

Click the link below to view the groups currently active and join those of interest to you, then click the “+ Add” button in the upper right of the Groups page to start your own.

Contribute Content & Updates

All GHN Community members are encouraged to contribute their thoughts, experiences, photos and videos on site-specific and general GHN Community pages. We are particularly interested to receive current documentation of and information on threats to sites and their conservation status as well as for successful site preservation projects. There are also general and site-specific discussion forums to participate in, so please share your knowledge and make your voice heard!
**Become a Site Coordinator**

Site Coordinators are responsible for one or more heritage sites in the GHN database. While a site Coordinator does not need to be based in the country where the site is located, familiarity with the site(s) and a background in archaeology, heritage preservation or a related field is desirable. The role of Site Coordinator is a volunteer position which entails:

- Collecting and posting all relevant documentation for the site
- Maintaining and moderating the Site Community page
- Liaising with the Site Monitor and GHN staff

If you are interested in becoming a Site Coordinator please email ghn@globalheritagefund.org and include the following information:

- Site(s) of Interest
- Your Name
- Your Location
- Profession
- Academic / Professional Affiliation
- Background (educational, professional)
- Why do you want to be a GHN Site Coordinator?
- Attach your CV

**Become a Site Monitor**

Site Monitors are responsible for visiting one or more heritage sites in the GHN database to evaluate threats to the site, its conservation status and overall condition. As such, a Site Monitor should be based in the country where the site is located and possess a background in archaeology, heritage preservation or a related field. While travel expenses can be provided, the role of Site Monitor is a largely volunteer position which entails:

- Visiting the site(s) to complete a State of Conservation Assessment (SCA)
- Aiding in the collection of other relevant site documentation
- Liaising with the Site Coordinator, GHN staff and others (e.g. government officials, onsite project staff if any)

If you are interested in becoming a Site Monitor please email ghn@globalheritagefund.org and include the following information:

- Site(s) of Interest
- Your Name
- Your Location
- Profession
- Academic / Professional Affiliation
- Background (educational, professional)
- Why do you want to be a GHN Site Monitor?
- Attach your CV
Support GHF

GHN is an initiative created and maintained by Global Heritage Fund in support of its mission to preserve cultural heritage sites in the developing world through planning, conservation, community involvement and strategic partnerships. With your donation, we can continue to save our global heritage for the benefit of all. Thanks for your support!

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Contact GHN

*Have a suggestion or question for the GHN Team? Get in touch with us and submit your feedback or questions to us so that your voice can be heard!*

**Step 1:** Click on the “Contact Us” link at the bottom of GHN:

This will take you to the GHF Contact Page where our contact information resides. Once there, please locate the Global Heritage Network email address at the bottom of the list.

To get in touch with us the old-fashioned way through mail or also by telephone, our contact information is provided toward the top. We’d love to hear from you!

[Global Heritage Fund]

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