

expressions and is taken care of through traditional or established means. This would mean that living heritage is strongly linked to a community (core community) and the sense of change is embraced. This has profound implications for the very definition of conservation and the decision-making process. These connected communities can take the responsibility for maintaining the heritage by traditional or established means. Furthermore, such heritage is linked to, or has relevance to, the contemporary life of the community which endeavours to draw different benefits from it. These are essential elements that should be given due consideration when assessing values and identifying attributes that manifest them. Value assessment should go beyond the 'expert's' frameworks of introducing regular categories such as historic and scientific, and allow those emerging from the communities through innovative processes such as cultural mapping. When undertaking condition assessments, both positive and negative impacts should be considered and the outcomes or outputs of the conservation and management process should be based upon such results. Outcomes and outputs should aim at benefitting both heritage and communities (Wijesuriya *et al.*, 2013).

That said, it is not the intention to establish or campaign for a special category of heritage. Although some heritage places have lost their original function, they still continue to serve society with different functions. Indeed, as mentioned above, all heritage places have survived, with diverse changes, up until the moment when society identifies them as heritage. The intention here is to establish an improved version or approach to conservation and management of living heritage which is to be led by people or people-up approach. The 'living heritage approach' described below could be used as one of the tools in the process of conservation and management of heritage.

### Living heritage approach

Having characterized living heritage, attempts were then made to develop an approach that would help communities who are the guardians of such heritage, and practitioners and policy makers to reorient their attitudes. Continuity of the original function being the core concept, this approach aims at empowering the core community and their needs to dictate the conservation decision-making process. In other words, this approach is about managing all aspects of continuity mentioned above. As much as the assessment of values is challenging, identifying the core communities and defining original function may also pose challenges. Nevertheless, there are many heritage places that people have identified as living heritage and research has shown that they are linked to the continuity of original function. The most challenging task is to deviate from the current philosophical and practical approaches to conservation and recognize continuity as being key. The expectation therefore is that this approach would bring a