2009/2010 Progress Report
Banteay Chhmar, Cambodia

Above, the results of laser scanning reveal a stunning glimpse at the intricately carved stone Bas-reliefs and document them in super high resolution.
In 2009-2010, significant progress was made at Banteay Chhmar, including:

Planning

- A hydrological assessment has been conducted to understand the ancient water management system and to address recurrent flooding issues which threaten the site
- The Interdisciplinary Centre for Science Computing (IWR) at University of Heidelberg continues to develop and test a system for 3D scanning of construction stones to aid in recording and reconstruction
- Masterplanning for the Banteay Chhmar nomination to the World Heritage List has been initiated with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts

Conservation

- Work on the reconstruction of the bas-relief wall in the southeast corner of the central temple complex is under way, with trained local workers recording, repairing and consolidating the carved stone blocks prior to their being reset in their original positions
- Emergency repairs are being conducted on the most threatened Face Tower at Banteay Chhmar to prevent its collapse

Community

- Community development in Banteay Chhmar is making great strides under the guidance of the Community Based Tourism (CBT) organization with support from GHF and its partner Heritage Watch for English language instruction and guide training
- CBT has also seen a significant increase in tourist visitation numbers and use of the homestay program and other services which it offers
- Training in archaeological conservation methods for local community members also continued in 2010 with support from GHF and under the direction of South Asia Conservation and Restoration Agency (SACRA)
- The onsite conservation team is now entirely Cambodian

Partnerships

- The GHF Cambodia Corporate Council, now with 10 members, has been established in-country to provide funding and advice to the project
- $1.2 million has been committed to the Banteay Chhmar project by GHF, Cambodian Corporate Council (CCC) and four co-funding partners