

PART - 4

CONCLUSION

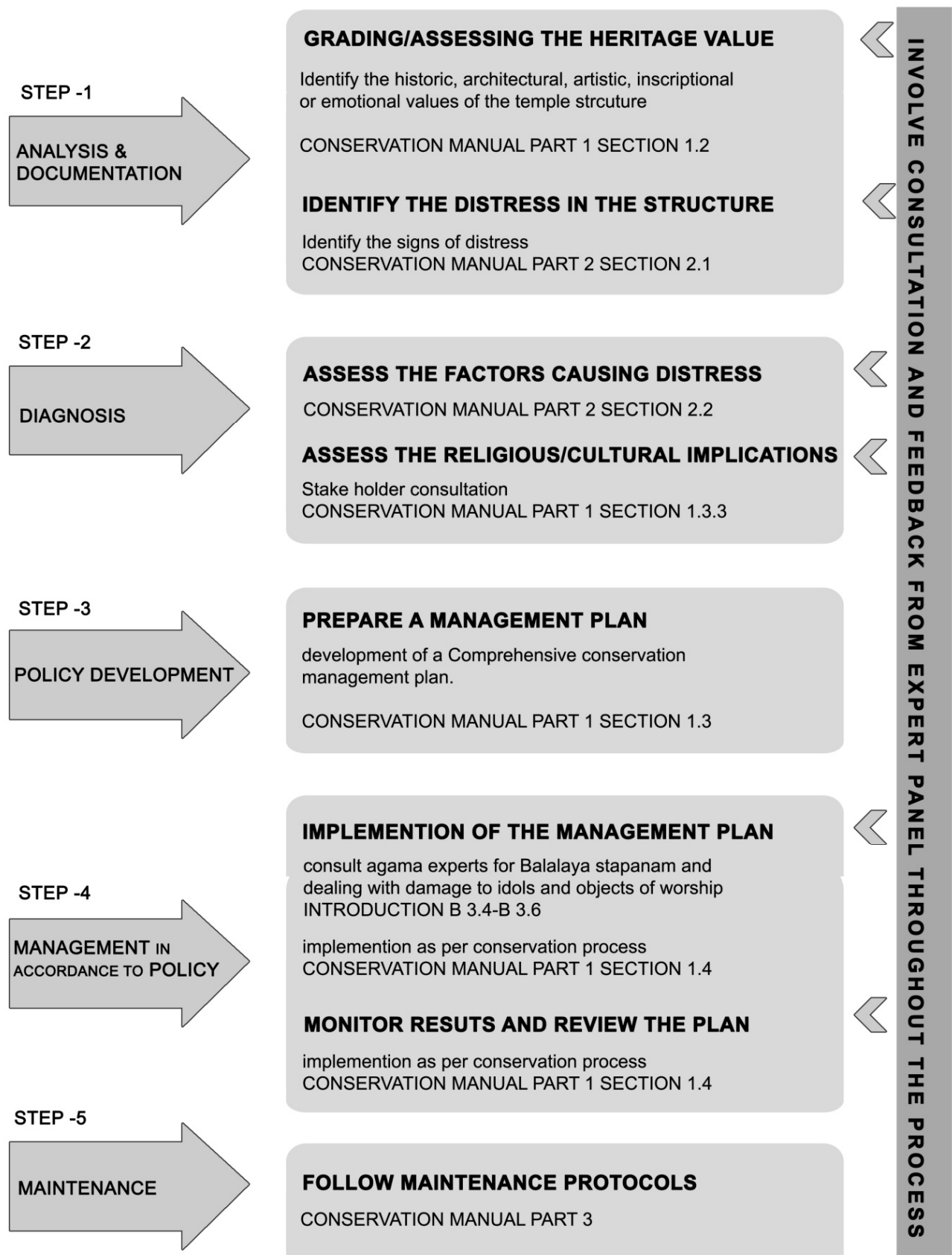
4.1 CONCLUSION:

The manual has laid down important processes to be followed in the preservation and the structural conservation of temples, highlighting the importance of conservation rather than reconstruction of preservation in the case of historically important temple structures.

The idea of restoration itself has to be redefined for the historic sites in continuous use, as there are several layers of history surrounding the structure. While the agama shastras also encourages restoration and reconstruction in temple structures that are in a dilapidated condition, the assessment of the temple, whether the structure is truly beyond repair or has scope for conservation, must be done for every case with the help of conservation experts, and an informed decision must be taken before the commencement of any reconstruction work.

The manual has put forward a strategy for addressing any structural distress to the temple structure, and has also suggested possible interventions to be taken under different circumstances. However it is the role of those involved in the conservation of a particular temple to address the situation based on the suggestions given in the manual and formulate a feasible conservation plan. The conservation process itself is complex, since the structure, material and nature of construction vary in the huge number of temples that have evolved over time and there are also various cultural and emotional factors to be considered when dealing with these structures. It is for this reason that the commissioner will have a consultation in decision making with experts approved by ASI, State Archaeology and Museum Department as well as Conservation experts in the field.

4.1.1 The conservation management process discussed in the manual can be summarized in a step by step basis as follows: (the section of the document explaining each of the steps is mentioned in this graphic)



4.2 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

Comprehensible policies for the maintenance of the tangible as well as intangible heritage of the temples shall be made with further research in the respective areas.

4.2.1 Policy on Conservation of Indigenous Values that are an inherent part of the temple's construction and functioning:

Tamil Nadu is blessed with the continuous existence of traditional sthaphathis, agama experts, masons, carvers, carpenters, black-smiths, etc. they can play a vital role in the conservation process as they are living repositories of building and artistic traditions which have been sustained through generations. Constructive policy will be developed for utilization of their skill in the conservation and preservation works of the temple and also perpetuates their traditional skill for posterity.

4.2.2 Policy on creation of infrastructural facilities:

Policy on creation of visitor's infrastructure in and around the temple, facilities for physically challenged persons, dos and don'ts in the temple premises, penalty for unauthorized activities within the temple, regulations for commercial activities in and around the temples etc. will be outlined and elaborated after consultation with experts.

4.2.3 Petrological and chemical examination of stone samples

The stones normally used for construction of ancient temples in Tamil Nadu are: granite, charnockite and gneiss, In some cases sandstone, limestone and laterite are also used for construction. Granite is an igneous rock and comprises of many minerals such as quartz, felspar, hornblende, mica, etc. Sandstone is a sedimentary rock which generally consists of quartz, feldspar with mica. Petrological and chemical examination of stone sample of ancient temple will give a comprehensive understanding on the characteristics of the stones used.

4.2.4 Data bank of the types of bricks

A data bank of the different types of bricks used in different periods of construction must be created by analyzing historic brick samples, their sizes,

compressive strength, density, crushing capacity, water absorption, etc. This data will be useful for conservation work and also for preparing new bricks wherever required.