

## **Implementation of a sustainable solution for the preservation of analogue photographs in a tropical environment**

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The dissemination and use of early photograph collections through digitization must be accompanied by improved preservation of the originals, whether prints, slides or glass plate negatives and films. The hot and humid climate of Southeast Asia accelerates the degradation of photographic and iconographic collections, which are composed of organic materials that deteriorate irreversibly through biological and chemical pathways. The adoption of international conservation standards requires the installation of air conditioning, which has high costs, reliability issues and a large carbon footprint. In this presentation, the author will present an initiative in Myanmar under a project entitled "Supporting the post-disaster recovery of the Bagan archaeological area and monuments through the preservation and digitization of the Bagan photo archive" under the auspices of the UNESCO office in Thailand from 2019 to 2020. The main objective was to implement local sustainable preservation solutions based on available resources. Instead of air conditioning, the choice was made to use dry cabinets. The boxes and envelopes to house the plates were produced locally, the work was carried out by local staff after short training sessions. After completion of the photographs and a 2-year follow-up, it was possible to draw an encouraging outcome for such an approach. Dr Lavédrine will present the context of this initiative and the importance of the collections, the different stages of the preservation strategy and the positive results obtained which could promote the implementation of similar solutions and compromises for storing sensitive collections in tropical environments.