

# IRELAND

## I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1991

Organisation(s) or institution(s) responsible for preparation of report

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG)

## I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories, established at national and local levels, have not been used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites

## I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List was submitted in 1992
- At that time, it was the responsibility of a Government agency, the Office of Public Works (OPW), which prepared the dossier based on proposals formulated by the general public and institutional bodies
- Responsibility now rests with DEHLG as a result of change in organisation of National Heritage functions

## I.04. Nomination of Cultural and Natural Properties for the World Heritage List

Nominations

- Nominations are the responsibility of the central government, which prepares the dossier
- Motivations for nomination: conservation of site, working in partnership, honour/prestige

Inscriptions

- 2 cultural sites: *Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne* (1993); *Skellig Michael* (1996)

Benefits of inscription

- Conservation of site, honour/prestige, working in partnership, lobbying/political pressure, increased funding, endangered site protection

## I.05. General Policy and Legislation for the Protection, Conservation and Presentation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage

Specific legislations

- National legislation includes wildlife Acts, National Monuments Act, Architectural Heritage and Historic Monuments Acts, Planning and Development Act (includes principles of sustainable development), National Cultural Institutions Act which involve communities
- There is no specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage
- Management plans exist and include policy plans (National Heritage plan, National Biodiversity plan, Action on architecture), individual site plans (Bru na Boinne management plan, Clonmacnoise Draft management plan, Killarney National park management plan, Wicklow national park management plan), which all include principles of sustainable development, as well as plans for public access in local and county management plans
- Both World Heritage sites are protected under National Monuments acts
- National Monuments Act and Heritage Act are currently under review

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Underwater Convention (2001), Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1989), Florence Convention (2000), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES (1973), Bern Convention (1979), Bonn Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

Given expression in domestic legislation and inclusion in National Plans, Management Plans and planning and policy guidelines

## I.06. Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Government bodies (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, OPW, Waterways Ireland, The National Museum) and Local Authorities provide archaeological, architectural, ecological, parks services, visitor services, educational and management/administration services in collaboration with NGOs
- Conservation of the cultural and natural heritage is institutionally integrated
- The private sector, local communities and NGOs are involved

## Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

### I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- N/A

Government; Fragmentation of services for protection, conservation and presentation and the lack of research and training programmes also weaken their efforts to ensure site protection

### I.08. Financial Resources

No proposed future actions

#### National resources and international financial assistance, fund-raising

- State-Party budget allowance
- The State Party has not helped to establish associations for raising funds to protect World Heritage – heritage protection is centrally funded by the Government
- No additional contributions to the World Heritage Fund have been made

### I.09. Training

#### Professional and Institutional training

- No identified training needs for the protection of national heritage
- Heritage training has been provided

### I.10. International Co-operation

- N/A

### I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

#### Information and awareness raising on local, regional national or international level

- World Heritage sites are promoted at international, national and local levels through publications and postcards
- Presentation and awareness are adequate
- Education programmes in the field of heritage protection: visitor services provide programmes for schools at primary and secondary level

### I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

#### Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Strong legislation for protection of heritage sites; Vigorous system for assessing planning and development issues; The input by local authorities, local commerce, NGOs and the general public has led to consensus between State and private sectors to ensure growing awareness and pride in national heritage. Successful promotion of World Heritage sites and significant increases in visitor numbers
- Weaknesses: Difficulties encountered arising from the reorganisation of National Heritage functions and loss of expertise and the division of responsibilities between Central and local