

ALBANIA

I.01. Introduction

Year of adhesion to the Convention: 1989

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

- Institute of Cultural Monuments

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories, established at the national level, have been used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites. They were created after World War II, when a systematic search and identification of properties was undertaken, and selected sites were extensively documented

I.03. The Tentative List

- The Tentative List was submitted in 1996
- It is the responsibility of the central government

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, increased funding, working in partnership, particularly internationally, site in danger, lobbying/political pressure
- Difficulties during nomination: inadequate staffing, lack of local/regional cooperation
- *Amphitheatre of Durrës* submitted in 1991 (not inscribed); *Monument Graves of Selca* submitted in 1991(withdrawn); *Museum Town of Berat/Gjirokastra* submitted in 1991(withdrawn)¹; revised nomination will be examined at the 29th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Inscriptions

- 1 cultural site: *Butrint* (1992, extended in 1999)

Benefits of inscription

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

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

Specific legislations

- Law for Cultural Heritage and Law for Protected Zones, concerning declaration, protection and administration of properties at the national level
- Management plans are required for national heritage and exist for Butrint
- There is no specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage. Changes to legislation are not envisaged

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Hague Protocol (1954), London Convention (1969), UNESCO Convention (1970), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES (1973), Bonn Convention or CMS (1979), Bern Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989), Alpine Convention (1991), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

No information on policy coordination is provided

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Institute of Cultural Monuments, with regional directorates, responsible for identification, protection and popularisation of properties, National Centre of Inventories of Cultural Properties, managing documentation of monuments, National Centre for Folk Activities and Art Museum of the Middle Ages, all under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Institutes of Archaeology and Institute of Ethnography, both under the Science Academy
- Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture and Food, General Directory of Forests and Pastures, responsible for natural heritage
- Heritage conservation is institutionally integrated
- The private sector, local communities and NGOs are also involved

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Butrint and its Fortifications, along with more general studies on architecture, protection and restoration of monuments in Albania

¹ Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005.

I.08. Financial Resources

No proposed future actions

National resources and international financial assistance, fundraising

- Funding of the World Heritage site: national budget allowance, NGOs, private sector and international assistance for the protection of the country's properties
- Beyond the provision of central funds, the State Party has not helped to establish associations for raising funds
- No additional contributions to the World Heritage Fund have been made

I.09. Training

Professional and institutional training

- Identified training needs for the protection of World Heritage: conservation of archaeological ruins, mosaics and wall paintings, notably fresco techniques
- Heritage training has been received
- International educational institutions are considered important

I.10. International Co-operation

- International cooperation has been largely sporadic

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- World Heritage site is promoted at international and national levels through publications, films and on-site performances
- Presentation and awareness raising are considered inadequately addressed through media campaigns, excavations, restorations
- No information on education of World Heritage protection is provided

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Identification of national heritage has progressed steadily after ratification of the World Heritage Convention
- Weaknesses: Natural heritage identification; lack of funding; lack of qualified specialists; violations of legal regulations are relatively commonplace; legislation should be enriched; management plans need to be strengthened; involvement of civil society, especially in fundraising efforts; although, with the opening-up of the country, international cooperation has started, it has been slow to take effect