

ESTONIA

I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1995

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

- Tallinn City Government
- Tallinn Cultural Heritage Department

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories for cultural and natural heritage are established at a national level, and are used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites

I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List was submitted in 1984
- Revision submitted in 2004
- The Heritage Conservation Advisory Panel working at the Ministry of Culture is responsible for identifying the properties on the tentative list. The list was prepared on the national level, by the Advisory Panel, in consultation with the National Commission to UNESCO
- Natural properties are discussed and approved by the Ministry of Environment

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

Nominations

- The State Party, in cooperation with local governments, is responsible for preparing World Heritage site nominations and sets up ad-hoc working groups to carry out the work
- Motivations for nomination: conservation of sites, honour/prestige, lobbying/political pressure, increased funding, working in partnership, site in danger, and awareness-raising
- Difficulties during nomination: lack of national cooperation, inadequate staffing, lack of funding, and development pressures

Inscriptions

- 1 cultural site: *Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn* (1997)¹

¹ Also the transnational natural site: *Struve Geodetic Arc* (2005).

Benefits of inscription

- Honour/prestige, conservation of sites, working in partnership, endangered site protected, lobbying/political pressure, and increased funding are considered benefits of inscription

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

Specific legislations

- Legislation for the identification and protection of national heritage are The Heritage Conservation Act (revised 2002), Statues of Heritage Protection Area of Tallinn Old Town (2003), The Nature Protection Act (2004). Legislation on visitor management and site-related policies are included in The Heritage Conservation Act and The Statues of Heritage Protection Area of Tallinn Old Town
- The Protection of Nature and Environment Act and The Plan and Building Act are under revision
- There is specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage sites (Statues of Heritage Protection Area of Tallinn Old Town)
- Management plans are required for natural heritage, while cultural sites have Statues with the principles of preservation and allowed development

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), London Convention (1969), UNESCO Convention (1970), Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1992), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES Convention (1973), Bern Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Key organisations: Ministry of Culture, National Heritage Board, Tallinn Cultural Heritage Department, Environmental Investment Centre, and regional environmental authorities
- Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Environment cooperate in the areas that concern both institutions
- The involvement of the private sector, local communities and NGOs through support programmes, information centres, provision of project-based support, study programmes, and management contracts with local authorities

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Heritage research and development programmes; Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States, Sustainable Urban Heritage Management – Local Community in Time of Change, and EU project within Leonardo da Vinci programme

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- World Heritage sites are funded by State-Party budget allowance, local/regional authority budget allowance, and the private sector

I.09. Training

Professional and Institutional training

- Training needs for institutions and individuals concerned with the protection of World Heritage have been identified
- Lack of training available in the field of administrative proceedings, in the field of conservation, and the field of management
- Key training institutions in the field of World Heritage protection are the Faculty of Cultural Heritage and Conservation, Master studies in the field of restoration at the University of Tartu, seminars and courses organised by the National Heritage Board, and seminars and courses by ICCROM

I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation with other States Parties for the identification, protection, conservation and preservation of World Heritage has been carried out through hosting and/or attending international courses/seminars, distribution of material/information, financial support, and through the exchange of experts
- Twinning agreement on joint heritage conservation training has been established between the World Heritage sites Visby, Sweden, and the Historical Centre of Tallinn

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- World Heritage sites are presented and promoted through publications, films, postcards, media campaigns, internet, and on postage/stamps on an international, national, regional and local level
- Presentation and general awareness of World Heritage sites is considered adequate

- Education programmes in the field of World Heritage protection are the Collegium Educationis Revaliae – special study programme in gymnasium, and the Koduinn – Information Centre on Sustainable Restoration arranges seminars, courses and lectures on the tertiary level

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Newly adopted legislation has contributed to regulation of heritage at national level; Several conventions have been ratified; Provision for studies and training in conservation; Awareness-raising at school level; Internet based information is broadly accessible, and television and radio programmes are popular
- Weaknesses: Lack of coordination between different stakeholders and a lack of basic World Heritage documents in the Estonian language; Lack of funding; Lack of a management plan for the Historic Centre of Tallinn; More international cooperation would be beneficial

Proposed actions:

- Publication of new Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in national language
- Preparation of development plan for Tallinn Old Town
- Ratification of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention (1999), the Intangible Heritage Convention (2003), and the Bonn Convention (1979)
- Launching of radio-programme on heritage conservation in public broadcasting channel