

ICELAND

I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1995

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

- Ministry of Education, Science and Culture Ministry of Environment
- The National Museum of Iceland
- The Environment and Food Agency

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

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

I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List was submitted in 2001 and has not been revised since
- The Icelandic National World Heritage Committee identified the properties on the Tentative List on the basis of National Cultural Heritage Inventory, the Nature Conservation Agency and the report Nordic World Heritage made by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 1996, and presented the list to the responsible ministries

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

Nominations

- Central government is responsible for preparing World Heritage site nominations and carries out the work in cooperation with consultants and site managers
- Motivations for nomination: honour/prestige, conservation of sites and working in partnership
- Difficulties during nomination: lack of funding and inadequate staffing

Inscriptions

- 1 cultural sites: *Pingvellir National Park* (2004)

Benefits of inscription

- Public awareness/honour/prestige, conservation of sites, working in partnership 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

- National law on cultural heritage/natural heritage, Act on Nature Conservation, and Environment Impact Assessment Act
- Legislation on visitor management and site-related policies are included in The National Heritage Act, The Nature Conservation Act, The National Architectural Heritage Act, The National Planning and Building Act, The Environment Impact Assessment Act and The Act on Protection of Thingvellir
- There are plans to for a new act on special protection of the watershed of the Thingvalla Lake.
- There is no specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage sites in general, but a specific Act on Thingvellir National Park
- Management plans are required by law all for cultural and natural heritage

Other Conventions

London Convention (1969), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES Convention (1973), Bern Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- The Environment and Food Agency, the Archaeological Heritage Agency, the National Museum, the National Architectural Heritage Board, and Nature Conservation Committees
- Services are provided at national and regional levels
- The conservation of cultural and natural heritage is not institutionally integrated
- Conservation does not involve the private sector
- Local communities and NGOs participate through participation in working groups and Nature Conservation meetings

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- No scientific, technical studies or research are listed

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

- World Heritage sites are funded by State-Party budget allowance
- No proposed future actions

I.09. Training

Professional and Institutional training

- Training needs for institutions and individuals concerned with the protection of World Heritage have not been identified
- The work on implementing the World Heritage Convention has just started and there is yet no information on what training institutions are most important

I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation with other States Parties for the identification, protection, conservation and preservation of World Heritage has not been carried out

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- World Heritage sites promoted at national level through publications
- The presentation and general awareness of World Heritage sites is not adequate
- There is some education on protection of cultural heritage at university level, and, following the inscription of Thingvellir on the World Heritage List, an open seminar and an exhibition on World Heritage sites and the Convention was organised
- There are no State Party education programmes on World Heritage

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Organisation of the implementation of the Convention; Increased cross-sectoral (nature – culture) cooperation on governmental and institutional level; National World Heritage Committee; Several Funds available for the protection of cultural heritage; Strong interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation, involving NGOs (for building heritage) and local communities; International cooperation on World Heritage with other Nordic countries, with The European Council, and through Swedish assistance in the nomination process
- Weaknesses: No specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage sites; NGOs are not involved in protecting archaeological heritage and there is no information on relevant training institutions; Minor participation in international cooperation