

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Convention on Safeguard of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the World

PERIODICAL REPORT ON REALISATION OF THE CONVENTION
OF WORLD HERITAGE

Form

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION I. REALISATION OF CONVENTION OF WORLD HERITAGE BY A STATE-
PARTY

1.1. Background:

- a) State-party of the convention – Kyrgyz Republic
- b) Year of ratification of the Convention – 1995
- c) Organisation(s) responsible for preparation of the report – Ministry of education and culture
- d) Date of report – 20 October 2002
- e) Signed on behalf of the State-party by – Toktomyshev Sovetbek Jailoobekovich or Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic

1.2. Definition of objects of cultural and natural heritage

- a) National stocktaking – *There was no National stocktaking of objects of cultural heritage in general and monuments included in preliminary World Heritage List of UNESCO in particular for the years of sovereignty, despite the fact that there is a special state structure (Republican Revision Service) dealing with stocktaking, protection and usage of historico-cultural heritage at the Ministry of Education and Culture of Kyrgyz Republic. Presently, at all levels – national, regional and oblast levels – the lists of monuments compiled at Soviet time. Code of Monuments of History and Culture – planned to be published by National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyz Republic – has not been accomplished as yet.*

The exception is the Issyk-Kul basin, the monuments of which were object to stocktaking in 2001-2002 within the framework of the project of German Technical Cooperation “Biosphere Reserve Issyk-Kul.” A certain amount of work was done by UNESCO, too, while preparing documents for Cholpon-Ata petroglyphs and a number of other objects included in the Issyk-Kul monuments’ complex to be submitted to the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

- b) Preliminary List – The preparation of Preliminary List of Monuments to be submitted to World Heritage List was started by Kyrgyz Republic in 1995. The first mission of

UNESCO's experts, having studied the objects on the spot, selected four possible candidatures and defined the priorities:

- Saimaly-Tash
- Safid-Bulen (Shakh-Fazil)
- Uzgen Architecture Complex
- Mount Sulaiman-Too with a complex of monuments built in different periods

They were assisted in their activities by representatives of Kyrgyz National Commission for UNESCO, Institute of History at National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Kyrgyz Republic, and local authorities. Later, the list was expanded and detailed by officers of the above-mentioned structures with the assistance of UNESCO's experts. The list then included Burana Archaeological and Architecture Complex and Cholpon-Ata petroglyphs. The list in question served as a basis for monuments selection carried out in 2001 with the aim of the given monuments to be included in the World Heritage List.

- c) Nominations—Six monuments-candidatures submitted by Kyrgyzstan are sorted in the following nominations:
1. Cultural and natural objects: Issyk-Kul—cultural and natural landscape; Petroglyphs of Saimaly-Tash; Sacred Mount Sulaiman-Too;
 2. Historico-cultural objects: Archaeological and Architecture Complex Shakh-Fazil; Uzgen Archaeological and Architecture Complex; Burana Tower and other Middle-age settlements on the Great Silk Road.

There is also another proposal—to group a number of monuments of historico-cultural and religious heritage of Osh Oasis and surrounding regions (Duldul-Ata, Sakhaba, Abshir-Ata) And Sulaiman-Too in one nomination complex.

During the nomination of objects to be submitted to World Heritage Waiting List the executives faced difficulties at personal, professional and interdepartmental levels.

1.3. Safeguard, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage

- a) Development of a general strategy—Forming a general policy of Kyrgyz Republic for cultural heritage has not been completed yet. It is of a dual character: on one hand it goes on with old—Soviet—traditions, which are reflected in existence of old and in many ways ineffective State structures at different levels, which even do not coordinate their activities; old order of control over and stocktaking of data on monuments; the State's exclusive control over and restoration of objects of cultural heritage. On the other hand, there appear new attitudes to the cultural heritage of the Republic as a part of World's Heritage.

A number of monuments were included into regional development programmes. Within the framework of programme "Osh-3000," all monuments situated in Osh, especially Mount Sulaiman-Too and its surroundings were studied and assigned museum status. This work is planned to be continued within the framework of 10-year development programme (2000-2010). In 1997-1998, German Technical Centre with the National Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Education and Culture, and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection realised a pilot project called "Safeguarding Cultural Heritage and Sensitising Labour Market" in guarded area of Uzgen Architecture Complex. One of the project's targets was sensitising local community to safeguard and usage of objects of

cultural heritage. There was held a training course, in the result of which the participants received certificates of workers of various restoration-related professions. The monuments of Issyk-Kul, including petroglyphs in Cholpon-Ata, objects in Osh were included in national programmes for development of tourism in the country. Within the framework of National Programme “Madaniyat” there was supposed a study of monuments and their further restoration. However, due to financial hardships, the measures were not taken. In fact, Kyrgyzstan is interested in the improvement of guarded areas of Burana, Sulaiman-Too, Uzgen, Shakh-Fazil and Cholpon-Ata, but difficult economic situation of post-Soviet era does not allow putting the plans into practice.

As a sign of epoch, there were established of NGOs – which are, to tell the truth, not so numerous – making contribution to the matter of protection, safeguard and restoration of objects of cultural heritage.

- b) Forms of protection, safeguard and presentation – All monuments included in World Heritage Waiting List are also included in the List of Monuments of National Significance. Their guarded areas and buffer zones are defined. The areas of some of them include museum complexes (petroglyphs of Cholpon-Ata, Sulaiman-Too, Burana Tower). A work on installing information hoarding and guide-boards (Uzgen, Burana, Sulaiman-Too, Cholpon-Ata). Popular scientific literature (on petroglyphs of Saimaly-Tash, Cholpon-Ata, Sulaiman-Too and Shakh-Fazil) and booklets were published. Video films were shot (on Sulaiman-Too, Shakh-Fazil, etc.). There were held TV-marathons, and the gained finance are allotted to improvement of territory and advertising goods (Sulaiman-Too, Shakh-Fazil, Uzgen, Burana Tower).
- c) Scientific and technical researches – For the time reported scientific researches were carried out on the following objects included in World Heritage Waiting List: at the sites of Middle-age settlements of Krasnaya Rechka and Ak-Beshim; at the sites with petroglyphs of Saimaly-Tash; complex research was carried out at the sites of Osh, Sulaiman-Too and Osh Oasis in 1997-2000 within the framework of programme “Osh-3000.” As a rule, these researches resulted in scientific reports and special publications. Sometimes, this information was used in curricula for schools and institutions of higher education (in manuals and methodological appliances). Quite often, it was reported in mass media. Unfortunately, all this did not significantly improve awareness of the population of the value of monuments included in World Heritage Waiting List.
- d) Measures on revealing, safeguarding, protecting, presenting and restoring objects of world heritage – For the time reported, the Republic has taken a number of measures in this direction. Sulaiman-Too: at the site of Bronze-age settlement the status of museum was assigned to the remainders of a earth-house; petroglyphs were object to conservation; at the sites of Middle-age monuments of the Sacred Mount (bath-house – hammam, 11th-14th centuries; mosque, 16th-17th centuries; mausoleum, 18th century) works on conservation and restoration were held within the framework of programme “Osh-3000.”

Uzgen: activities directed at improvement of guarded area and partial restoration of the dome.

Shakh-Fazil: the activities on conservation of architectural decoration and restoration of the dome as well as improvement of guarded area are planned.

Cholpon-Ata: work on conservation was accomplished.

Krasnaya Rechka and Ak-Beshim: there were started activities directed at conservation of and assigning the status of museum to Middle-age Buddhist and Christian architecture.

e) Education – The following activities are carried out for this purpose:

1. State programmes – there exist a Chair on restoration and conservation at Kyrgyz State University for Building, Transport and Architecture; Chair on archaeology and ethnography of History Department at Kyrgyz National University;
2. International programmes – seminars, training courses, probation periods for specialists and workers involved in the science and cultural heritage (UNESCO, Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan, World Bank, etc.)

On the whole, forming national educational strategy for developing professional basis is still underway, while practical activities directed at forming strategy targeted at developing national and regional centres for training and education of safeguard and presentation of objects of cultural heritage are yet to be launched.

1.4. International cooperation and seeking financial support

Recently, we witness sensitisation of world cooperation to seeking financial support for research and restoration of monuments of Kyrgyzstan. Almost all activities of such a kind, carried out during the last five years (Krasnaya Rechka, Ak-Beshim, Uzgen, Cholpon-Ata, Saimaly-Tash), all were supported in terms of finance at the expense of international organisations or separate foreign States, except programme “Osh-3000” (Sulaiman-Too).

International organisations and countries partaking in study and restoration of objects of cultural heritage in Kyrgyzstan:

1. UNESCO
2. Government of Germany (German Technical Centre)
3. Government of Japan (Japanese Fund-in-Trust)
4. Government of United States
5. Government of Turkey
6. Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan
7. Government of France
8. Russia (the Hermitage)

1.5. Establishment of education and information system

Is yet to be formed.

1.6. Conclusions and foreseeable actions

- a) Principal conclusions;
- b) Proposed further actions;
- c) Organisations responsible for execution – Ministry of Education and Culture, National Commission of Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO, National Academy of Sciences;

d) Schedule of execution—

e) Necessity of international assistance—Since Kyrgyzstan is in economic crisis, it is only due to international cooperation and support that the study and restoration are carried out.