



**PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE
ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE
CONVENTION**

SECTION I

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

State Party: Lao People's Democratic Republic

PERIODIC REPORTING FOR WELL PLANNED HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Background

The twenty-ninth General Conference of UNESCO, held in 1997, decided to activate Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention concerning the submission of periodic reports on the state of implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Section I) and the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties (Section II). The national authorities are invited to report on Section I, while Section II shall be prepared for each property inscribed on the World Heritage list by the person(s) directly in charge of the property's management.

The periodic reports prepared by the States Parties will serve a three-fold purpose:

- ❖ to assess the current state of all World Heritage related issues in a State Party,
- ❖ to help focus the Committee's as well as the State Party's future activities and funds,
- ❖ to strengthen sub-regional and regional co-operation between States Parties.

The Periodic Reporting Questionnaire

In 1998, at its twenty-second session, the World Heritage Committee approved *Explanatory Notes*, designed to be read in conjunction with the *Periodic Reporting Format*, in order to outline the information expected to flow from the periodic reporting exercise. To facilitate the preparation of the report, a *Questionnaire* was developed that the States Parties are encouraged to use. It closely follows the subjects referred to in the *Explanatory Notes*, but in contrast to the latter splits the subjects up into short questions to be answered in a few sentences or paragraphs. A second type of question requires the indication of YES or NO by circling or underlining the appropriate answer. All questions are clearly identified with a little number in the right hand column of the *Questionnaire*. To make the reporting results meaningful every one of these questions has to be answered. If no answer is possible, the reasons should be given. If the available space is not sufficient for the answer, the response should be continued on a separate sheet of paper, clearly indicating the number of the question the text refers to (e.g. 006).

Benefits for the States Parties

The *Questionnaire* was developed in such a way as to allow to extract and compile or compare relevant information from different States Parties or properties, facilitating the process of preparing the regional synthesis report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee. The YES / NO questions make it possible to evaluate the reports quantitatively, but only the details that should be supplied in the related 'open question' make the answers meaningful and can be the basis for concerted actions to preserve a State Party's most valuable heritage for its transmission to future generations.

The information collected in this way will help the States Parties to assess their own strengths and weaknesses concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, putting them in a position to (re)define policies and to request assistance in order to finance projects and / or training. On the other hand it allows the World Heritage Committee to collect information needed to devise *Regional Action Plans*, give well-informed advice to States Parties and to focus funds as well as attention on the region(s), States Parties and / or properties that need the collective support of the international community.

The preparation process of the regional periodic report will furthermore enhance regional co-operation through information meetings as well as through the better availability of regularly up-dated

information on activities as well as contact addresses etc. The identification of the State Party's strengths makes it possible to exchange experiences and look for solutions to problems (e.g. of site conservation) within the region.

Conclusion

Periodic Reporting is a participatory exercise, aiming to collect information on World Heritage related issues on a national as well as on the property level. The individual State Party reports will be collated into a regional synthesis report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee. This information will enhance cooperation between the Committee and the States Parties and allow to focus funds and activities more efficiently, allowing the States Parties to protect their most valuable heritage more effectively for transmission to future generations.

PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION I: APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATE PARTY

I.1. Introduction

- a. State Party
- b. Year of ratification or acceptance of the Convention
- c. Organization(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of the report
- d. Date of the report
- e. Signature on behalf of State Party

I.2. Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

- a. National inventories
- b. Tentative List
- c. Nominations

I.3. Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

- a. General policy development
- b. Status of services for protection, conservation and presentation
- c. Scientific and technical studies and research
- d. Measures for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation
- e. Training

I.4. International co-operation and fund raising

I.5. Education, information and awareness building

I.6. Conclusions and recommended action

- a. Main conclusions
- b. Proposed future action(s)
- c. Responsible implementing agency(ies)
- d. Timeframe for implementation
- e. Needs for international assistance.

I.7. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section I

I.1. Introduction

a.	Country (and State Party if different): Lao People's Democratic Republic	001
b.	Year of ratification or acceptance of the Convention: 1987	002
c.	<p>Organisation(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of this report: Organization: Department of Museums and Archeology, Ministry of Information and Culture Person responsible: Thongsa SAYAVONGKHAMDY Address: Ministry of Information and Culture City and post code: Vientiane, PO Box 122, Lao PDR Telephone: (856-21) 212 423 Fax: (856-21) 212 408, (856-21) 212 401 E-mail: Thongsas@hotmail.com</p>	003
d.	Date of the report: 5 March 2003	004
e.	<p>Signature on behalf of the State Party</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Function:</p>	005

I.2. Identification of the cultural and natural properties

This item refers in particular to Articles 3, 4 and 11 of the Convention regarding the identification of cultural and natural heritage and the nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List.

a.	<i>National inventories</i>	
	<p>Inventories of cultural and natural heritage of national significance form the basis for the identification of possible World Heritage properties. Indicate the organisation(s) or institution(s) responsible for the preparation and updating of these national inventories (if different from those named under question 003).</p> <p>Organisation(s) / Institution(s):</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">- The same as 003</p> <p>Organization: Department of Museums and Archeology, Ministry of Information and Culture</p> <p>Person(s) responsible: Thongsa SAYAVONGKHAMDY Address: Ministry of Information and Culture City and post code: Vientiane, PO Box 122, Lao PDR Telephone: (856-21) 212 423 Fax: (856-21) 212 408, (856-21) 212 401 E-mail: Thongsas@hotmail.com</p>	006

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

1.2.a continued

	<p>Indicate if and to what extent inventories lists and/or registers at the local, state and/or national level exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is one list of National Heritage enacted by the Prime Minister. - At local level, inventory is at preparatory stage (survey, documentation, research and graphic recording), it will be soon submitted for endorsement and enactment. - National Heritage is designated by the government while the provincial one will be designated by the Minister of Information and Culture on behalf of the Chairman of the National Committee of Preservation of Historical, Cultural and Natural Heritage. 	007
	<p>Have you undertaken the preparation of lists or of national inventories on one or several of the following levels:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> NATIONAL (Yes) STATE / PROVINCE (Yes) LOCAL (No) NO inventory (list or registry) has been developed () </p>	008
	<p>When was (were) the inventory (inventories) compiled, please give date(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13 November 1993 	009

<i>b.</i>	<i>Tentative list</i>	
	<p>Article 11 of the Convention refers to the submission by States Parties of inventories of properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List, so-called Tentative Lists. Have you submitted a Tentative List of natural and/or cultural properties in your country since your adhesion to the World Heritage Convention: YES</p>	010
	<p>Provide the dates of submission of the Tentative List (if any):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1987 	011
	<p>Provide the date of any revision made since its submission (if any):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under revision 	012

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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

<p>Name institution(s) responsible for identifying and delineating the properties included in the Tentative List (if different from those named under question 003):</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">- The same as 003</p> <p>Organisation(s) / Institution(s):</p> <p>Person(s) responsible:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>City and post code:</p> <p>Telephone:</p> <p>Fax:</p> <p>E-mail:</p>	013
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I.2.b continued

<p>Describe the process of preparation or revision of the Tentative List and give details (if applicable) concerning the involvement of local authorities and population:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mission order issued by the Minister of Information and Culture. This is to start up legal, administrative and financial measures that empower the Department of Museums and Archaeology (DMA) to carry out the whole process. It also defines the specific and immediate framework for horizontal and vertical coordination. 2. Request is made to the local Authorities to appoint local staff (at province, district and village level). Expenditures of local staff (transportation, daily subsistence allowance, accommodations) are born by the Ministry of Information and Culture. 3. Professional staff of DMA is dispatched to fieldwork to accomplish a mission that is well defined in terms of objectives, budget packages and duration. 4. Successive meetings held with concerned authorities and local population for consultation, explanation and implementation of activities. 5. Survey is conducted by the joint team (national and local staff). Following activities are carried out: 1. Graphic (maps, plans, technical drawings) and photographic recordings. 2. Owners or managers of cultural properties are interviewed. 3. Assessment of the property (historic, artistic, scientific, cultural values). 4. State of conservation evaluation. 5. Study and further documentation at library and office work. 6. Coordination with other related Institutions. 7. Analysis of data (Cross-checking, criteria analysis and synthesis). 8. Compilation of the dossier. 6. Local authorities and population are consulted and informed about the dossier. 7. The dossier is finalised at DMA and then submitted to the Minister of Information and Culture and to the National Committee of Preservation of Historical, Cultural and Natural Heritage for endorsement. 8. The dossier is transmitted to the Prime Minister's Office for endorsement and proclamation at the Government level. 9. The dossier is transmitted to UNESCO. 	014
<p>Were the local authorities consulted for the identification: YES</p>	015
<p>Was the local population consulted for the identification: YES</p>	016

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

c. Nominations	
<p>List the properties that have been nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, giving the name of the property, the date of submission and, if applicable the date of inscription or extension. Also include properties that were deferred, referred, withdrawn or not examined by the World Heritage Committee or its Bureau:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Town of Luang Prabang, submitted in January 1995 and inscribed on 7th December 1995. 2. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within Champasak Cultural Landscape, submitted on and inscribed on 14th December 2001. 	017

I.2.c continued

<p>Please provide an analysis of the process by which these nominations are prepared, indicating also to which degree this was done in collaboration and co-operation with local authorities and people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The process of nomination is started by a Ministerial Order that is issued by the Minister of Information and Culture upon request made by the Department of Museums and Archaeology. It is similar to the nomination to the National List of Cultural Heritage. - The Department of Museums and Archaeology bears full responsibility for implementation. - The Governor of Province holds a strategic position since his positioning towards the nomination strongly impacts the participation of the local authorities and public. - Consultation with local population is vital since their participation is sought from nomination process to full implementation of conservation programme. Formal and informal meetings with headmen of villages, villagers, monks, elderly people, craftsmen and different mass organisations (National Front and Clergy) have been organised at different stages during the process of nomination. They are informed about the process and are invited to comment about foreseeable consequences and impact on their own property/community. In case of Luang Prabang, the first consultation meeting was organised from 5-7 October 1993 (proceedings are available in Lao); and at Vat Phou it was organised several times in 1987. - Creation of the National Committee for the Preservation of Historical, Cultural and Natural Heritage revealed to be an important administrative measure since it has set up a forum where consultation and collaboration between Line Ministries of the government at central level can take place. - Creation of Local Committee for Preservation of Historical, Cultural and Natural Heritage has set up another forum where consultation and collaboration between different sectors of the local Government can take place. Furthermore, in case of conflicting situation this committee can submit to the National Committee for arbitration. - Missions sent by UNESCO to assist documentation and application form are crucial for successful preparation of dossier and eventual nomination. - Funds raised by UNESCO to assist State Party during the process are fundamental. - Evaluation missions by ICOMOS are essential to success of nomination. - Appraisal by the World Heritage Committee is decisive to nomination. 	018
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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

<p>Describe the motivation for entering into the nomination process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase public awareness on conservation of cultural and natural heritage in order to mobilise all potential resources that are needed. - Seeking the world community to appreciate and honour the Lao Cultural and Natural Heritage. This would bring strong and positive impact on public awareness campaign. - Seeking for assistance from the world community (expertise and funding) to cope with scarcity of domestic resources and lacks of experience. 	019
<p>Detail the obstacles and difficulties encountered in that process as well as the perceived benefits of World Heritage listing and the lessons learnt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Obstacles and difficulties</u> originate from two different and conflicting positions. The first group approves nomination because it could generate benefits to local community and to the nation (pride, cultural identity, preservation of old values, incomes from tourism etc...). The second group disapproves because the nomination would bring excessive constraints and responsibility beyond the local capacity limits. Moreover they see the nomination as an obstruction to modernisation. This conflict is acute in case of the town of Luang Prabang because the whole population is concerned; their houses, temples, living environment and lifestyle are affected. The situation is less serious about Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements because most of the designated heritage properties are ruins of stones temples and historic remains, which are not in direct, contact with their daily life. - Main difficulties are to bring a consensus amongst stakeholders and to maximize the participation of the local authorities and population. Other difficulties are related to legal, administrative, institutional, technical, scientific and financial matters. Enforcement of legal texts is at beginning stage, horizontal and vertical coordination is not carried out on regular basis, qualified staff is very small, scientific research is in its infancy and financial power is very limited. National and international coordination is at learning stage. <p><u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firm position and strong commitment of the Government in putting in to practice its policy on cultural heritage is decisive. - Personal commitment of personnel working in different National Institutions that are responsible for implementing the International Convention on World Heritage is necessary. - Coordination at different levels such as inter-ministerial, between central and local government and at national-international level is to be established and to become efficient. - Participation of the public, which could be obtained after running campaign of awareness education and organising a series of public meetings. Make sure that all the stakeholders are aware of different kinds of benefits and that they espouse the same ideal of conservation of cultural heritage. Continuous information programme throughout mass media and publications. Let the local population and authorities appropriate the project of conservation so that by better appreciating their own efforts and initiatives they can raise their sense of responsibility, self-reliance and self-determination. - Expertise from local craftsmen should be as important as that from abroad. - Training of professional personnel is a key issue. 	020

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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Foster the national capacity building.- Integrate the conservation of cultural heritage to the broad socio-economic development of the community. Conservation could create jobs such as guards, clerks, guides, wood or stone carver, carpenters and bricklayers. The local community could revive arts and rituals or booster production of handicraft products that could be connected to the tourism industry. in particular the benefits that can be obtained by in connection with tourism industry and handicraft production. | |
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.3. Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

This item refers in particular to Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, in which States Parties recognise their duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural World Heritage and that effective and active measures are taken to this effect. Article 5 of the Convention specifies the following measures:

a.	General policy development	
	<p>Provide information on the adoption of policies that aim to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community, including the dates of their elaboration and implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural Heritage Policy is included in the cultural development policy which is part of the national socio-economic development called the Five Year Plan of the Government, adopted from 1980 until present. - The People's Revolutionary Party, leading the government since 1975, issued a special resolution for cultural development in an important document dated on 1st October 1994. This has clearly stated the function of cultural heritage in the life of the community. The Government translates the resolution into national policy and is mandated by the Party to implement such policy. 	021
	<p>Provide information on the way the State Party or the relevant authorities has (have) taken steps to integrate the protection of World Heritage properties into comprehensive planning programmes. Indicate also the level on which the integration takes place (e.g. national, state / provincial or local):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up the National Committee for Preservation of National Cultural and Natural Heritage by Prime Minister Decree No 174 /PM dated on 13/11/1993. - Setting up the Provincial Committee of Preservation of National Cultural and Natural Heritage, at Luang Prabang, Champasak and Xieng Khuang Province. - Setting up the National Inter Ministerial Coordination Committee (NIMCC) by Ministerial Ordinance No. 331/IC dated 17/6/1996. - Comprehensive planning programme to integrate the protection of World Heritage properties is to be designed. 	022

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.3.a continued

	<p>Indicate areas where improvement would be desirable, and towards which the State Party is working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect taxes from tourism industry (bed taxes from hotels) to sustain the running costs of the Maison du Patrimoine at Luang Prabang - Setting up Vat Phou Conservation Fund which is made of retaining 50% of total ticket sales, accepting donations and other fund raising activities 	023
<i>b. Status of services for protection, conservation and presentation</i>		
	<p>Provide information on any services for protection, conservation and presentation of heritage within the territories of the State Party which have been set up or have been substantially improved since ratification of the World Heritage Convention, if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of Maison du Patrimoine at Luang Prabang with the mission of implementing the conservation programme of the Town of Luang Prabang, World Heritage Site in 1995. 	024
	<p>Give the number of staff on the national level directly involved in protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 persons of which 10 have studied at University level. <p>Assess their means to discharge their function in terms of influence on policy making and implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft the cultural heritage policy. - Prepare strategy, planning and programmes. (Work plans, budget plans, equipment plans and personnel). - Implement such policy (after endorsement by the Government) in collaboration with other concerned Institutions. 	025 026

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

1.3.b continued

	<p>Indicate areas where improvement would be desirable, and towards which the State Party is working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of a national laboratory of conservation. - Introduction of cultural studies to the curriculum of the National University. - Decentralisation. - Encourages local community, individual and private entrepreneurial initiatives. - Revitalise traditional crafts and knowledge that might be applied to conservation of cultural heritage. 	027
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<i>c. Scientific and technical studies and research</i>		
	<p>List significant scientific and technical studies or research projects of a generic nature (site specific information should be reported upon under Section II.4) that would benefit World Heritage properties, initiated or completed. Indicate also how the study results are disseminated and/or how they can be accessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 	028
	<p>List the areas where improvement would be desirable and towards which the State Party is working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of National Fund for the Preservation of National Cultural and Natural Heritage - Creation of a National Day for the Preservation of National Cultural and Natural Heritage with a week of public information activities already authorised by the Government with Circular of Prime Minister's Office No. 2157 dated 24/9/2001. 	029

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.3. continued

<i>d.</i>	<i>Measures for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation</i>	
	Does your country have specific legislation and policies concerning identification, protection, conservation, preservation and rehabilitation of national heritage? YES	030
	<p>If YES, please give details, paying particular attention to measures concerning visitor management and development in the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decree of the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the preservation of cultural, historical and natural heritage No. 03/SPP dated 20/6/1997. - The National Law on Cultural Heritage is under finalisation. - Ministerial Ordinance No. 1375/NE dated 14/6/1978; concerning the protection of antiquities, historic buildings and religious properties. - Penal Code, No. 29/NA date 23/12/89. Article 103 referring to sanctions to those who have violated laws and regulations concerning cultural heritage. - Ministerial Ordinance No. 139/IC dated 22/3/1990; concerning conservation of cultural heritage in particular museums, provincial exhibition halls, antiquities, places of worship, historic sites, landscape sites, art works and evidence of the recent historic period. - Ministerial Order to all Provincial Information and Culture Offices No. 502/IC dated 1/8/1991; to carry out inventory of antiquities, historic buildings and landmarks within their territory. - Ministerial Order to all Provincial Information and Culture Offices to inspect and supervise antiques and handicraft shops, No. 350/IC dated 29/6/1993. - Letter of Minister of Information and Culture to Minister of Communications, Transports, Posts and Constructions No. 270/IC dated 28/5/1993; requesting collaboration to preserve mansions and houses of colonial style. - Letter of Minister of Information and Culture to Minister of Interior and Minister of Finances No. 753 and 754/IC dated 16/10/1993; to request Police and Customs officers respectively to combat illicit traffic of antiquities in particular at border check points. - Government Decree on National List of Cultural Heritage, No. 174 dated 13/11/1993. - Government Decree No. 176 dated 24/10/1993; appointing the National Committee of Preservation of Historical, Cultural and Natural Heritage of the nation. - Ministerial Circular No. 943/IC dated 30/8/1995; to all ministries and provincial governors requesting their actions to implement the cultural heritage policy of the Government. - Ministerial Order No. 628/IC dated 22/6/1995; to all Provincial Information and Culture Offices to undertake inventory of colonial houses and propose their designation as protected properties and their restoration and revitalisation (to house provincial museum or exhibition hall). - Ministerial Order No. 819/IC dated 29/7/1996; to all Provincial Information and Culture Offices to continue and complete the inventory of tangible cultural heritage within their territory. - Ministerial Ordinance No. 1236/IC, dated 18/6/1998; prohibiting the transfer of inventoried items of cultural heritage from one place to another without permission 	031

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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

<p>from the Ministry of Information and Culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on Ownership, No. 1/90/NA dated 27/06/1990. Articles 32 and 41 concerning ownership over antiquities and items of designated cultural heritage - Law on Forests No. 01/06/NA dated 11/10/1996; concerning the protection of different types of forests including protected forests. - Law on protection of environment No. 09/NA dated 26/4/1999; Article 16 concerning sites designated as historical, cultural and natural heritage. Article 7 refers to obligation to conduct environmental impact assessment prior to construction of important project - Law on land use, No.33/NA dated 31/5/1999. Articles 34 and 35 concerning land that has been designated as cultural properties. - Governmental Ordinance No. 19/PM dated 1//11/2001; to all Governors to take appropriate measure in view of the protection cultural properties in particular Buddha images that are housed in temples. 	
<p>If such measures have been taken, have they had an impact on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in your country: YES</p>	032
<p>If YES, how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The concept of conservation and values of cultural heritage (national and world) has been introduced and is becoming day by day better understood and appreciated by general public. - The national policy of cultural heritage is raised to a higher level of significance when it is connected to the International Convention. Hence by and large, its implementation receives higher priority and better acceptance by the society. 	033
<p>Are the local communities involved in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage: YES</p>	034
<p>Describe the actions undertaken to encourage the active participation of the local communities in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage and assess their effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness education campaign; effectiveness is low at the beginning but it increases as time passes by because people realise the benefits from their own activities and they can see positive changes from completion of a series of pilot operations that are carried out and completed by our Institution. - Assistance to local population by providing them advice in the methods of repairing protected houses and in designing and constructing new houses that match with the townscape. Effectiveness is high because those who come to ask for advice usually listen and follow the regulations before applying for repair or new construction. - Assistance to local population by providing them the construction materials that are required by the townscape regulations and are not easily available such as specific roof tiles, floor tiles and bricks. Very high effectiveness because materials are 	035

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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

	<p>provided for free.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance to local population by providing them with some construction materials that are needed for sanitary improvements in their houses. This enables them to participate in the sewage amelioration project, which is intended to improve the used water before it is drained to ponds in the wetland conservation program. Effectiveness is very high because the owners of the houses can acquire expensive items, which are beyond their buying capacity and in return they pay for low costs items for examples sand and gravels and they contribute also in labour. Their conditions of living in the house are thus improved and their immediate environment is better in terms of hygiene and landscape. 	
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I.3.d continued

	<p>Is the private sector involved in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage? YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By observing the regulations concerning repair and new construction within protected areas. - By donations to the temples so that some maintenance and repair work could be conducted by monks and religious community. <p>Describe the actions undertaken to involve the private sector in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By dissemination of information and awareness building campaign. 	036
	<p>Are NGO's involved in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage? NO</p> <p>Describe the actions undertaken to involve NGO's in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage sites:</p>	038 039
	<p>Indicate if, on the basis of the experiences gained, policy and/or legal reform is considered necessary: YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal improvement is necessary. <p>Describe why this is the case and how a new policy / legislation should be conceived:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law is needed so that its enforcement would be more effective. 	040 041

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.3.d continued

<p>Which other international conventions for the protection of cultural or natural heritage have been signed or ratified by the State Party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil 	<p>042</p>
<p>Describe how the application of these different legal instruments is coordinated and integrated in national policies and planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Convention on World Cultural Heritage is applied through national Law. 	<p>043</p>
<p>Indicate relevant scientific and technical measures that the State Party or relevant institutions within the State have taken for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation of cultural heritage is to conform with international standards in particular the Venice and the Burra Charters. - Traditional materials and techniques are to be maximized in conservation works. 	<p>044</p>

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.3.d continued

<p>Indicate relevant financial measures that the State Party or relevant authorities have taken for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of annual budget - The Government has authorised different Archaeological Sites and Museums to retain some percentage from ticket sale in order to cover extra costs of running and urgent repairing (open on week-end, over time, roof leakages et...) - At Luang Prabang, tax on bedroom has been introduced so that these incomes can sustain the Maison du Patrimoine 	045
<p>Is there an annual budget allowance for the protection and conservation of World Heritage sites in your country? YES</p>	046
<p>If YES, is it specifically for a property or is it part of a regular budget covering culture and environment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a specific budget line on regular basis for Vat Phou Archeological Site Conservation since 1998 fiscal year and it has increased from year to year. To implement the Japanese Grant Project on Vat Phou the Government has contributed 10% of the total costs, which amounted approximately 1.5 millions US\$. An extra budget has also been allocated for the proclamation ceremony after the site has been inscribed on the World Heritage List. 	047
<p>Give detailed information on the presentation of cultural and natural heritage, which can refer to publications, internet web pages, films, stamps, postcards, books, etc. (please attach examples for all World Heritage properties, if possible):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Web site on Vat Phou managed by UNESCO Bangkok Regional Office - “Luang Prabang” text by Barbara Pavlic under direction of Pisit Charoenwongsa and Thongsa Sayavongkhamdy, published by SEAMEO-SPAFA Japanese Trust Fund, 2001. - Tresors de Louang Prabang - Calendars on Vat Phou - Postcards - “GIS and Cultural Resources Management with case study on Vat Phou”, Paul Box, published by UNESCO/Bangkok with the support of the Government of Republic of Korea, 1999. 	048

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

1.3. continued

	<p>Identify areas where improvements of the measures taken for the identification, protection, conservation, preservation and rehabilitation of World Heritage properties would be desirable, and towards which the State Party is working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal measures - Educational programmes - Awareness building campaign - Indirect Taxation - National capacity building - Administrative in particular horizontal and vertical coordination - Participation of the public - Connection with tourism industry - Promotion of handicraft to increase profits to the local population - Reviving traditional crafts that are used for conservation of antiquities and architectural properties 	049
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<i>e. Training</i>		
	<p>Provide information on the training and educational strategies that have been implemented within the State Party for professional capacity building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scholarship and fellowship to send students and professional staff abroad - Introduction of Archaeology and Art History to National University is on preparatory stage 	050
	<p>Were training needs for institutions or individuals concerned with the protection and conservation of heritage identified? YES</p>	051

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

1.3.e continued

	<p>If YES, list the primary needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architect-restorer - Engineer - Surveyor - Draughtsmen - Curators - Conservators - Site Managers - Guides - Archaeologist - Art Historian - Geographer - Environmentalist 	052
	<p>Were existing training opportunities in your State and in other countries identified? YES</p>	053
	<p>If YES, please give details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEAMEO-SPAFA, Bangkok, Thailand - ICCROM, Italy - Silapakorn University, Thailand - Conservation Sciences, University of Canberra, Australia - Conservation Sciences, Hongkong University - Conservation sciences, Lucknow, India - Tokyo and Nara Research Institutes of Cultural Properties, Japan - Ecole des Monuments de Chaillot, Paris, France - Paul Getty Foundation, USA - Royal University of Fine Arts, Pnom Penh. Cambodia 	054
	<p>Have you developed training modules or programmes for the World Heritage sites?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO</p>	055
	<p>If YES, give details:</p>	056

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

1.3.e continued

	<p>Has staff received heritage training in or outside of your country: YES</p>	057
	<p>If YES, give details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEAMEO-SPAFA (Centre for Fine Arts and Archaeology of South East Asian Minister of Education Organisation) - Asia and Pacific Cultural Centre of UNESCO (ACCU) Japan - Waseda University, Japan - University of Hanoi, Vietnam 	058
	<p>Give details on the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training and education in the protection, conservation, and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage (if applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil 	059
	<p>Describe the degree to which such training has been integrated within existing university and educational systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil 	060

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.3.e continued

	<p>Indicate the steps that the State has taken to encourage scientific research as a support to training and educational activities concerning heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government has decided to become a member of ICCROM. 	061
	<p>Identify areas where improvement would be desirable, and towards which the State Party is working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of Bachelor Degree of Archaeology, Art History and Fine Arts at the National University 	062

I.4. International cooperation and fund raising

This item refers particularly to Articles 4, 6, 17 and 18 of the Convention:

	<p>Provide detailed information on the co-operation with other States Parties for the identification, protection, conservation and preservation of the World Heritage located on their territories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan has provided trust in funds to UNESCO to prepare nomination application for Vat Phou and given Cultural Heritage Grant to the Vat Phou Preparatory Project. Japanese consultants have also conducted mission in Laos. - Italy has contributed in expertise and consultants for archeological research and nomination of Vat Phou on the World Heritage List - France has contributed to Luang Prabang, AFD and Ville de Chinon - Germany has contributed to Luang Prabang, Hoffheim. - EU have also provided funds for Luang Prabang Project 	063

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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

I.4. continued

	<p>Have national, public and private foundations or associations been established for raising funds and donations for the protection of World Heritage: YES</p>	068
	<p>If YES, give details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Fund for Preservation of National Cultural and Natural Heritage, its creation is underway - Conservation of Vat Phou Fund 	069
	<p>Has the State Party given assistance to this end? YES</p>	070
	<p>If YES, give details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Vat Phou Fund, the Government has provided some starting budget and has allowed using ticket sale. 	071
	<p>Has the government made voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund, besides the mandatory ones, to globally improve the work on the Convention? NO</p>	072
	<p>If YES, give details such as year and amount, and indicate if they have been allocated to a particular site:</p>	073

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.5. Education, information and awareness building

This item refers particularly to Articles 27 and 28 of the Convention on educational programmes. Information on site-specific activities and programmes should be provided under item II.4.

	<p>Have steps been taken by the State Party to raise the awareness of decision-makers, property owners and/or the general public about the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage? YES</p> <p>If YES, please give details: - Seminar organised by Department of Museums and Archaeology to Champasak authorities.</p>	<p>074</p> <p>075</p>
	<p>Provide information on education (primary, secondary and tertiary) and information programmes that have been undertaken or are planned to strengthen appreciation and respect by the population, to keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening the heritage and of activities carried out in pursuance of the Convention: - Not introduced into curriculum of mainstream education yet.</p>	<p>076</p>
	<p>Does the State Party participate in the UNESCO Special Project <i>Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion</i>? YES</p> <p>- Creation of ASP (Awareness at School Program.) with UNESCO Bangkok Office.</p>	<p>077</p>

I.6. Conclusions and recommended action

	<p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding the identification of cultural and natural heritage properties (see item I.2.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tentative List has to be finalised. - Dialogue and coordination with Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Science, Technology and Environment Agency, IUCN in Laos is underway. This will determine the selection of Natural sites to be endorsed on the revised tentative list. - National List has to be continued. - Provincial List has to be set up. - National capacity building is to be continued. - Improve administrative measures and coordination. - Increase public appreciation of arts and nature. 	<p>078</p>
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.6. continued

	<p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage (see item I.3.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive planning to integrate cultural heritage to the socio-economic development has to be studied, endorsed by the Government and implemented. - Scientific and technical measures have to be introduced and reinforced. 	079
	<p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding international co-operation and fund raising (see item I.4.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International co-operation is highly appreciated. In the future it should be more and more directed to support the national capacity building policy. - Financial assistance is crucial for under developed countries like Lao PDR. 	080
	<p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding education, information and awareness building (see item I.5.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness building campaign - Introduction of cultural heritage in the mainstream education - Educational program for the youth 	081
	<p>Give an overview over proposed future action / actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratification of the International Convention on World Heritage by the Government. - Law on Cultural Heritage will be enacted and enforced. - Submit the revised tentative list to the World heritage Centre of UNESCO. - Draft National Comprehensive Planning where integration of cultural heritage is underlined. - Implementation of 8 corrective measures for Luang Prabang. - Prime Minister's Decree on enforcement of Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur of Luang Prabang has to be issued and implemented. - Realise the Coherent Plan of Luang Prabang in order to better control urban development and conservation of the world heritage site and its vital surroundings. - Implement taxation system in order to sustain the Maison du Patrimoine at Luang Prabang. - Mobilise national and international resources to realise the management plan of Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlement. 	082

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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create National Fund for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage. - Celebration of National Day of cultural heritage preservation. - Launch campaign for awareness building through public meetings, seminars, publications and different means of mass media. - Undertake and encourage research and studies. - Introduce cultural heritage education to primary, secondary and tertiary schools. - Prepare and implement strategy and plan for professional training. - Prepare the nomination dossier of the Plain of Jars, Xieng Khuang Province. 	
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I.6. continued

	<p>Name the agency responsible for implementation of these actions (if different from 003):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The same. 	083
	<p>Give a timeframe for the implementation of the actions described above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the two last years of the concurrent Five Year Plan 2003-2004 and within the next Government Five Year Plan 2005-2009. 	084
	<p>Indicate for which of the planned activities International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund may be needed (if any):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft National Comprehensive Planning where integration of cultural heritage is underlined. - Mobilise national and international resources to realise the management plan of Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlement. - Research and studies. - Publications. - Prepare and implement strategy and plan for professional training. - Prepare the nomination dossier of the Plain of Jars, Xieng Khuang Province. 	085

	<p>Please, give an analysis of the process by which the Convention was ratified by the State Party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention is still to be ratified. The Government has only deposited instruments of access to the convention. - The Director of Department of Museums and Archaeology (DMA) and the Secretary General of the Lao National Commission for UNESCO (LaoNatCom) submitted the proposal to the Minister of Culture, who in turn proposed to the Government. After the proposal was approved the Minister of foreign Affairs representing the State signed the concerned documents for access to the Convention. The Ministry of Information and Culture is in charge to implement this convention. 	086
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

I.6. continued

	<p>Describe the motivation, obstacles and difficulties encountered during this process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motivation: Improve and uplift the national system of cultural management to the world standards. Benefit from the world expertise and financial potential. Fulfil duties and responsibilities of a State towards the world community. - Obstacles and difficulties: Access to the Convention did not encounter obstacle or difficulties, but its implementation did. Pros and Cons. Classic dilemma between modernisation and conservation. Huge tasks versus weak system and poor resources. 	087
	<p>Detail the perceived benefits and lessons learnt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benefits: We have broken through the state of isolation and weakness and by joining the world community we become more confident and more conscientious of our own potential. We feel proud that our cultural heritage has been appreciated to the world rank and that it could contribute to the heritage of the whole humankind. We owe to the world community for its strong support and cooperation and in return we must contribute more to common tasks and duties. We could access to the state of the art in techniques of identification and conservation of the cultural heritage for example the use of GIS, mapping with the computerized total station and drawing plans and sections of monuments with AutoCad application. - Lessons learnt: 1. We should never isolate ourselves and never underestimate our own potential. We should take advantages from the globalisation process and positively contribute our own part to it. 2. We should advocate the simultaneous development of economy with that of culture and fight back the idea of develop economy at the first place and then culture afterwards. 3. Cultural heritage is very fragile; a monument that needed several centuries to be completed could be wiped out in one hour or one day. Preparedness to such eventuality is a must. 4. To face the situation of imbalance between economic and cultural powers we should build a strong system of protection that is backed up by the public and supported by the world community; this is one of the keys of success in our mission of safeguarding our common cultural heritage. 	088

1.7 Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section I

	<p>Was sufficient and adequate information made available to the responsible authorities and individuals during the preparation phase of the Periodic Reporting exercise (information given, meetings etc.)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, in particular the meeting organised by WHC at Tana Toraja, Indonesia. - Explanatory notes 	089
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

<p>Was the questionnaire clear and did it help to comply with the reporting requirements of the State Party?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was quite clear. 	090
<p>What are the perceived benefits and lessons learnt of the periodic reporting exercise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminding main duties and responsibilities. - Opportunities to deepen understanding about International Convention. - Occasion to assess our strengths and weaknesses and redefine our cultural heritage strategic planning. 	091
<p>Please describe the expected outcome of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the desired follow-up by the World Heritage Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance cooperation between the World Heritage Committee and our Government so that the most valuable cultural heritage can be best preserved and transmitted to the next generations in conformity with the ideal of the Convention and with the aspirations of the people. - Provide the World Heritage Committee with the best information and conditions to follow-up the Convention that is put into practice in the Lao PDR. <p>Debriefing the situation of the State Party so that the WHC could better understand and follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Law on cultural heritage is under finalisation and will be soon enacted and enforced. - The Government is strongly committed to apply the Convention. In this regards, it has taken a series of relevant measures that will ensure realisation of concrete actions. The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs has personally monitored the Luang Prabang Project and he has promised to make himself available to immediately discuss with Lao officials and foreign consultant if there is any problem with implementation of Luang Prabang Conservation programme. The Minister of Information and Culture has also shown a strong personal commitment by his active participation in the inscription ceremony of Vat Phou and in the Luang Prabang seminar recently organised by UNESCO. - The Prime Minister will soon issue the Governmental decree to enforce the Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur de Luang Prabang. - The Mayor of Luang Prabang is given full power to carry out the Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur de Luang Prabang in coordination with line Ministries and related Organisations at central and local level. - The 8 correctives measures recommended by the World Heritage Committee are underway and half have been successfully implemented; the situation has gradually improved. - The Management Plan of Vat Phou and its Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape is implemented with remarkable success. 	092

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Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section I: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The preparation of the nomination dossier for the Plain of Jars is in good progress and will be completed by the end of 2004.- The tentative list is under revision and will contain natural sites after consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, IUCN Laos and the Science, Technology and Environment Agency.- The process of ratification of the Convention will be soon engaged.- The Ministry of Information and Culture is more and more committed to its mandate and is gaining a better experience in World Heritage Sites management and application of the Convention.	
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).