

# MALTA

## I.01. Introduction

**Year of adherence to the Convention: 1978**

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

- Ministry for Tourism and Culture

## I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

**Status of national inventories**

- The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is responsible for the national inventory
- A new National Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System (CHIMS) has been initiated;
- Its benefits will include raised public accessibility, unified format, and broad inclusion of stakeholders

## I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List submitted in 1979
- Revision submitted in 1998
- Responsibility lies with Malta Environment and Planning authority (since 2003)

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

**Nominations**

- Central government is responsible for the preparation of nomination
- The site specific preparation is done with government, consultants and site managers
- Motivations for nomination: conservation, honour/prestige, site in danger, increased funding, working in partnerships, lobbying/political pressure, publicity
- Difficulties encountered: inadequate staffing and undefined remits of stakeholders
- *The Harbour Fortifications of Malta*, deferred 1998

**Inscriptions**

- 3 cultural sites: *Hal Saflieni Hypogeum* (1980); *City of Valletta* (1980); *Megalithic Temples of Malta*, (1980, extension in 1992)

**Benefits of inscription**

- Honour/ prestige, conservation of site, endangered site protected, increased funding, working in partnerships, lobbying/political pressure, tourism product enhanced

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

**Specific legislations**

- The Cultural Heritage Act provides comprehensive protection; The Planning Development Act concerns archaeological sites and historic buildings
- World Heritage sites are designated as special areas
- Management Plans not legally required
- Site specific projects on conservation and presentation

**Other Conventions**

London Convention (1969), Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1992), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES (1973), CMS (1979), Bern Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), Florence Convention (2000)

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

**Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation**

- Committee of Guarantee, Heritage Malta, Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Valletta Rehabilitation Project, The Malta Centre for Restoration and other organizations
- Cultural and natural heritage is institutionally integrated through the new Malta Environment and Planning Authority
- Banks and private companies have been funding site specific conservation projects. Malta Tourism Authority has launched a grant scheme for tourism enterprises
- Local communities are involved through Local Councils, Cultural Heritage Act allows guardianship between Superintendence and Local Council as well as NGO's
- Representation in Valletta Rehabilitation Committee

## I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Published papers, scientific studies and conference proceedings on conservation techniques, archaeological research, and sustainable tourism

## I.08. Financial Resources

**National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising**

- World Heritage sites are funded by State Party and local/regional budget allowance
- Private sector

## Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

- World Heritage Fund
- Heritage Malta is a national agency responsible for managing state owned museums and heritage sites, It has implemented a Patrons Programme for donations and sponsorships at a corporate level. The Cultural Heritage Fund is acting under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act
- Additional contributions to the World Heritage Fund made 1995 -2002

### Proposed actions:

- Development of management plans and a consultation process for the public and stakeholders
- Finalisation of management plan for Valletta
- International conservation research programme
- Improvement of preservation Techniques
- The actions may require assistance from the World Heritage Fund

## I.09. Training

### Professional and Institutional training

- Primary needs include specialised skills in conservation of stone materials, environmental monitoring, management of cultural sites and landscapes
- Key institute: Malta Centre for Restoration
- Important institutes: ICCROM, Getty Conservation Institute, Centre for Sustainable Heritage (University College London), Institute for Masonry and Construction Research, University of Malta

## I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation with other countries, hosting and attending international training courses and seminars, experts
- European Union, ERDF and Interreg IIIC Structural funds project
- Heritage Malta in cooperation with English Heritage
- No site twinning

## I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- World Heritage site presented and promoted through publications, films, postcards, media, internet, etc. International exhibitions and international seminars
- Campaigns with ICOMOS Malta
- Visitors centre projects, free access for schools to World Heritage sites

## I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

### Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Small number of sites and national perspective in management; Updated national legislation and inventory and analysis project; Promotion internationally well established
- Weaknesses: Site interpretation facilities not sufficiently developed; Management plans are at early stages of development, consultation and nomination process for the public and stakeholders need to be defined