

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1988

Organisation submitting the report

- Cultural Properties Administration
920 Dunsan-dong
Seo-gu
Daejeon 302-701
Republic of Korea

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- National and provincial inventories are compiled under the Cultural Properties Protection Act (1962) and revised annually.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- 15 sites, revised in 2002.
- ICOMOS Korea & IUCN Korea have been involved in Tentative List elaboration.
- “gathering the opinions of appropriate governing bodies, regional NGOs and the local population has taken priority in the submission of the Tentative List”.

Nominations and the nomination process

- 1994 3 nominations (inscribed)
 - (a) Seokguram Grotto & Bulguksa Temple
 - (b) Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon
 - (c) Jongmyo Shrine
- 1995 1 nomination
 - (a) Mt Soraksan (deferred)
- 1996 2 nominations (inscribed)
 - (a) Changdeokgung Palace Complex
 - (b) Hwaseong Fortress
- 1999 2 nominations (inscribed)
 - (a) Gyeongju Historic Areas
 - (b) Dolmens in Goch’ang & Hwasun
- Difficulties were encountered in assigning roles to central and local governments and the participation of expert groups (ICOMOS and IUCN).
- “There is a need to consider the viewpoint of the population and prepare rational policy and plans, and to actively reflect public opinion” in the planning process.
- “In the case of Gochang Dolmen Sites, a mutual agreement was reached with the population in the area of the property about moving the village”.

1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

Integration of heritage and planning

- The Cultural Properties Protection Act, 1962, along with the Land Use and Management Act, the Urban Planning Act, the Natural Parks Act, the Environmental Influence Evaluation Act and the Forest Act provide the regulatory system.
- The Multipurpose Land Plan (2000-2020) provides for the creation of heritage conservation areas.
- Development plans appropriate to five cultural regions are being formed to address land development and conservation of cultural heritage.
- There is a need for local governments to enact cultural heritage conservation legislation.

Participation of local communities

- Activities have been held at provincial and municipal level to increase awareness and participation.
- “The Cultural Properties Administration implements yearly training for national honorary cultural properties administrators and cultivates personnel for the protection of cultural properties”. 5,167 people received this training in the period 1985-2000.

Tourism Development

- Gochang, Hwasun and Ganghwa Dolmen sites have received extensive promotion, including literature at expressway rest stops and World Cup Stadiums.
- There are 8 locally-generated websites relating to World Heritage properties.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- There is no specific regular budget for World Heritage. The National Treasury makes supplementary funds available for cultural heritage. Projects on nationally designated heritage properties receive 70% from Treasury funds.
- Part of the revenue from property admission fees is used for natural and cultural heritage.
- Special budgets for World Heritage Sites:
- The three Dolmen sites have negotiated a Government loan for a US\$21.2 million project.
- Silla cultural sites received US\$296,000 Treasury funds for project development in 2002.
- The UNESCO trust fund for conservation of North Korean cultural properties received US\$100,000 in 2002, and another US\$500,000 for 2003-2006.
- A target of \$120,000 in sponsorship and donations is being promoted for Gochang and Ganghwa Dolmen sites.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows:
2002 US\$38,000 for World Heritage nomination activity

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

Professional

- Training programmes have been developed at the national level in cultural property administration and conservation science.
- A National Research Institute of Cultural Properties has been established.
- Numerous site-specific training and capacity-building initiatives.
- There has been no integration of training with the university system.

New and improved services

- Guiding principles for management of World Heritage in accordance with domestic law and international standards published in 2002.
- 20 monitors appointed to monitor World Heritage properties, and to develop a monitoring checklist.
- Improved site information and use of the World Heritage symbol.
- The Cultural Properties Administration employs 192 staff, and the National Research Institute of Cultural Properties employs 93.
- The Cultural Properties Protection Act is being revised to reflect World Heritage standards and obligations.

Issues to be addressed

- The need to establish Divisions, with their own budgets, within the Cultural Properties Administration, specifically for World Heritage and international exchanges.
- Preparation of clear articles of domestic law concerning World Heritage.
- A need to break free from the conservation of cultural properties centred on national agencies, and to strengthen a network of regional & local co-operation for conservation.

I.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- * International Assistance from the WHF as follows:
1998 \$20,000 Training, Heritage monitoring course
1999 \$15,000 Preparatory, Dolmens in Koch'ang & Hwasun nomination
\$10,000 Technical, Sub-reg meeting natural sites
\$20,000 Training, Cultural sites conference
\$10,000 Promotional, Publication World Heritage Fortress Cities
2001 \$20,000 Training, Regional workshop on Periodic Reporting for cultural sites

I.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- The Cultural Properties Administration and Korean Institute of Curriculum & Evaluation produced a booklet for elementary schools "Cultural Properties Education – Theory, Method and Practice".
- In 1997, a "Cultural Heritage Charter" was established to promote public awareness and protect cultural heritage.
- In 2000 and 2002, International Youth Festivals were held in line with UNESCO's Project "Young People's participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion".

I.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- Systematic conservation and management of heritage is being strengthened following World Heritage inscription.
- There is a need to strengthen international co-operation to prevent damage to cultural properties in other nations.
- The Administration will develop training activities related to World Heritage properties and monitoring.
- Seek to strengthen support of NGOs and co-operation between nations.
- Establish a fund for the conservation and management of cultural properties.
- Prepare legal regulations and conservation and management guidelines for World Heritage properties.
- Increase publicity and create information databases.
- Results of a comprehensive survey of stone and wooden cultural properties will be reflected in policy-making, and restoration projects will be carried out in 2002-2005.
- Assistance from the World Heritage Fund may be needed for attendance at international workshops and Periodic Reporting meetings.