Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

TURKMENISTAN

I.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1994

Organisation submitting the report
- Department for the Protection, Study & Restoration of Monuments, Ministry of Culture,
- Turkmenistan National Commission for UNESCO.

I.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories
- The compilation of the national inventory is an ongoing process including the issuance of ‘Protection Certificates’ indicating the owners’ responsibilities.

Preparation of a Tentative List
- Local authorities and local populations were involved in the process.
- * In May 2000, a ‘Global Strategy Expert Meeting on Central Asian Cultural Heritage’ was co-organised by WHC and Turkmenistan in Ashgabat & Merv. Themes to make Tentative Lists more representative were identified.

Nominations and the nomination process
- 1996 4 nominations (deferred/not examined)
  (a) Dehistan
  (b) Kunya Urgench
  (c) Ancient Merv
  (d) Old Nisa
1999 Ancient Merv (inscribed)
- The nomination process was seen to be an aid to capacity-building amongst officials responsible for heritage issues.

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

Integration of heritage and planning
- Heritage properties are protected under the ‘Law of Turkmenistan on the protection of the historic and cultural heritage of Turkmenistan’ (1992).
- State Parks are designated by Presidential Decree.
- No linkage between heritage protection and planning identified.

Participation of local communities
- Local populations are trained to take part in conservation and restoration work.

Tourism Development
- A State Committee for the Development of Tourism has been established.

Financial measures and budget allowance
- 90% of costs of managing cultural heritage are financed by the State.
- The total regular national budget for Historical and Cultural Parks is 3,225 million Manats (US$620,192). The regular national budget for Ancient Merv WH Site is 297,000 Manats (US$57).

Professional Training
- The Academy of Arts of Turkmenistan provides courses including “Restoration of Monuments” and “Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan”.
- The Turkmen State University provides training courses including “Archaeology of the Monuments of Turkmenistan” and “Methods of Restoration”.
- The National Institute of Sport & Tourism provides training courses in tourism management, ethnography and local lore.
- The Institute of Culture offers training in archaeology, ethnology and museology.

New and improved services
- There are 8 State Historical & Cultural Parks that are being progressively equipped and staffed by the State.
- Levels of training are considered satisfactory.

Issues to be addressed
- 60% of parks do not have sufficient technical means.
- There is a shortage of technical equipment

I.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows:
  2000 $30,000 Technical, Ancient Merv
   $4,700 Technical, Ancient Merv
  2002 $30,000 Training, Dept of Monuments.
   $38,814 Training, Dept of Monuments.
   $30,000 Preparatory, Kunya Urgench
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I.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- As part of the national identity building process, Turkmen history and culture are promoted in the media, and in the secondary school curriculum.
- WH Education Kit has been used.

I.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- The World Heritage Convention needs to be more effectively implemented.
- Within the timeframe 2003-2010 the Turkmen authorities seek to: (i) develop natural & mixed heritage nominations; (ii) develop effective methods for the conservation and monitoring of earthen structures; (iii) strengthen international co-operation and fund-raising; (iv) improve capacity in the fields of conservation and heritage protection; (v) raise public awareness through formal & non-formal education systems; (vi) increase awareness of international heritage practice.