

ARMENIA

I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1993

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

- Ministry of culture and Youth Affairs, Directorate of Heritage

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories are established at national level and have been used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites

I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List was submitted in 1993
- Revisions submitted in 1995, 1999, and 2003; prepared at national level (Ministry of Culture) with the participation of independent experts (members of the Methodological-Scientific Council and Experts Commission of the Ministry of Culture)

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

Nominations

- Central Government in cooperation with independent consultants/experts prepares the nominations to the World Heritage List
- Key motivations for nominating a site are: honour/prestige, increased funding, site in danger
- Difficulties encountered during the nomination process: lack of funding and lack of political support

Inscriptions

- 3 cultural sites: *Monasteries of Haghpats and Sanahin* (1996, extension in 2000); *Cathedral and Churches of Echmiatsin and the Archaeological Site of Zvartnots* (2000); *Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley* (2000)

Benefits of inscription

- Tourism development, revision of the conservation and management system, awareness building of heritage at local level

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

Specific legislations

- Law “on the protection and use of historic and cultural monuments and sites” (1998), Decree “on the Regalement of national inventory, study, conservation, consolidation and use of cultural and historic monuments and sites” (2002), Law “on the principles of cultural legislation” (2002), Law “on the immovable heritage of State property” (2003) are main national legal acts in the field of cultural heritage
- No specific legislation on World Heritage has been established
- There are plans for legislative changes in accordance with the Protocol n°46 “Main principles of the protection, diffusion and development of culture”

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Protocol to the Hague Convention of (1954), UNESCO Convention (1970), Valetta Convention (1992), Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 (1999), Paris Convention (2003), Florence Convention (2000), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992); Ramsar Convention (1971)

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- State institutions at national level: Ministry of Culture (Directorate of Heritage), Centre for Heritage Researches, Service for the conservation of Heritage and Historical-Environmental Museum-Reserves, Archaeological Museum-Reserve Erebuni, Archaeological Reserve Agarak
- At regional level: 8 regional Restoration Ateliers
- NGOs, private sector and local communities are involved in the heritage conservation and preservation as well

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Three different specific studies on the conservation method for Zvartnots World Heritage site were prepared

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- World Heritage sites are funded by the State budget and NGOs

- Armenia has not made any additional contribution to the World Heritage Fund

I.09. Training

Professional and Institutional training

- There is a need for training for institutions and individuals concerned with the protection and conservation of World Heritage sites (through seminars and training courses for site managers)

I.10. International Co-operation

- Armenia has not cooperated with other States Parties for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the World Heritage located on their territories
- There are no twinned sites at national or international level

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- Presentation and promotion of World Heritage sites is realised at national level by the production of specific publications, films, postcards, and by undertaking media campaigns
- In general, the presentation and awareness about World Heritage sites in Armenia is considered adequate

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Existence of appropriate Armenian Cultural Heritage legislation for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention
- Weaknesses: Extremely insufficient state funding; It is important to further define the status and functions of the Heritage Directorate of the Ministry of Culture; due to the lack of funding the digitisation of existing "paper" inventory of the Cultural Heritage monuments encounters serious difficulties

Proposed Actions:

- Creation of the Working Group aiming to revise and reinforce the mechanisms of control, the rights and obligations of different units in charge of heritage within the Ministry of Culture
- Amelioration of the Cultural Heritage specific legislation
- Capacity-building of Ohannavan Master-restorers training school and of the Historical and Cultural Monuments Restoration Centre
- These actions require International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund