

BELARUS

I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1988

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

- Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus
- National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

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

I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List submitted in 1993 and revised in 2003
- Prepared at local (involvement of the local communities), regional and national (Ministry of Culture) levels in cooperation with UNESCO experts
- Current Tentative List includes 14 sites (13 cultural and 1 natural)

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

Nominations

- Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the regional authorities, consultants/experts and site managers prepares the nominations to the World Heritage List
- Key motivations: honour/prestige, conservation of site, international co-operation, tourism development
- 4 sites (3 cultural, of which 1 transnational property and 1 natural site) have been nominated

Inscriptions

- 1 cultural site: *Mir Castle Complex* (2000)¹
- 1 natural site: *Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest* (1979, extension in 1992) - (transboundary property shared with Poland)²

¹ Also: *Architectural, Residential and Cultural Complex of the Radziwiłł Family at Nesvizh* (2005)

² Also the transnational serial site: *Struve Geodetic Arc* (2005)

Benefits of inscription

- Honour/prestige, tourism development, conservation of site, international co-operation

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

Specific legislations

- The Law of the Republic of Belarus on the protection of the historical and cultural heritage (1992, amendments in 1995, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004)
- Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus adopted "The Concept of Creating Nesvizh-Mir Cultural and Tourist Area" (2001)

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), UNESCO Convention 1970

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- At national level: Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection
- The Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus is involved in the management of natural heritage
- Regional/local levels: number of objects is managed by museums, religious properties – by religious authorities

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- International research and conference "Mir Castle as the XV-XX centuries Historical and Cultural Phenomenon"
- Restoration project for Mir and Nesvizh Castles
- Joint Belarus-UNESCO project "Nesvizh, a cultural centre of Europe and National Historical and Cultural Monument"

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- World Heritage sites are funded by the State budget, voluntary contributions of membership organisation Society of Historical and Cultural Monuments Protection and by private donations
- State helped to establish "Development XXI Century Association"

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

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

I.09. Training

Professional and Institutional training

- There is a need to provide training opportunities for institutions and individuals concerned with the protection and conservation of World Heritage sites and scientists (botanists, forestry specialists and zoologists)

I.10. International Co-operation

- Belarus cooperates with Poland for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the World Heritage located on its territory (Belovezhskiy National Park and future nomination of August's Canal)

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- Belarus presents and promotes its World Heritage sites at international, national, regional and local levels by producing specific publications, films, postcards, and web pages and by undertaking media campaigns
- In general, the presentation and awareness about World Heritage is adequate

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Increased interest of the State and communities towards cultural heritage, development of tourism
- Weaknesses: lack of funding

Proposed actions:

- Revision of the Tentative List
- Restoration works on Nesvizh and Mir Castles and reconstruction of August's Canal