

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1993

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

- Commission to Preserve National Monuments

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories, established at national and regional levels, have been used as the basis for selecting World Heritage sites
- The state level inventory consists of a register of designated monuments, a preliminary list of properties and a list of petitions under the designation process

I.03. The Tentative List

- The Tentative List was submitted in 1998, revised in 2004
- It is the responsibility of the central government, which prepares the dossier, based on proposals from regional/local institutions and NGOs

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

Nominations

- Nominations are the responsibility of the central government, prepared in collaboration with regional/local authorities
- Motivations for nomination: site in danger, increased funding, conservation, lobbying/political pressure, working in partnership and development of tourism
- Difficulties during nomination: lack of local/regional cooperation, inadequate staffing, lack of funding, lack of support from UNESCO, and underdeveloped institutional and documentation frameworks (due to war)
- Old City of Mostar; submitted in 1998, amended in 2002, considered in 1999, 2000 and 2003 - deferred¹
- Sarajevo, Unique Symbol of Universal Multicultural and Continual Open City; submitted in 1998, considered in 1999 - referred

¹ Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005 as: *Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar*.

Inscriptions

- No properties inscribed

Benefits of inscription

- Not applicable

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

Specific legislations

- General Framework Agreement and Decision of the Presidency on the Commission to Preserve National Monuments, Rule on the Activities of the Commission, Criteria for Designation of Properties as National Monuments, all at the national level
- The Law on the Implementation of Decisions of the Commission and the Law on Spatial Arrangement have been adopted by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, and, in the case of the former law, the Brcko District
- Republika Srpska has a Law on Cultural Goods along with the Criminal Code, and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a Law on Protection and Preservation of Heritage along with the Criminal Code
- Management plans are required for natural heritage at the regional level
- There is no specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage; however, the Law on Cultural Heritage, currently being drafted, envisions a strategy of protection

Other Conventions

Ramsar Convention (1971), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), Hague Convention (1954), Hague Protocol (1954), London Convention (1969), UNESCO Convention (1970), Granada Convention (1985).

Provisions have been integrated into national legislation

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Commission to Preserve National Monuments designating and monitoring properties
- Regional governments, responsible for technical and financial aspects of preservation
- Local authorities, obligated to adopt regulation plans and advised to establish budgets for conservation
- Institutes at federal, regional, cantonal and local levels, universities, museums and archives
- Heritage conservation is institutionally integrated

- The private sector, local communities and NGOs are also involved

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Not applicable

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund-raising

- Funding of national heritage sites: central and local/regional authority budget allowances and international assistance
- The State Party has not helped to establish associations for raising funds to protect World Heritage
- No additional contributions to the World Heritage Fund have been made

I.09. Training

Professional and Institutional training

- Identified training needs for the protection of national heritage: capacity building in cultural preservation and conservation, recording and conducting of inventories/data bases, preparation of site management plans and maintenance programs, diagnostic methodologies, integrated preservation, cultural tourism and craftsmanship
- Heritage training has been received
- International educational institutions are considered important

I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation for the protection of World Heritage on the territory of other State Parties: bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements, hosting and/or attending training courses/seminars, distribution of material/information, financial support, experts, and conservation and rehabilitation of war-damaged properties

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- Promotion of the country's heritage sites is achieved at international and national levels through meetings
- Presentation and awareness are inadequate, to be addressed in upcoming nominations to the World Heritage List.
- Education of heritage protection: graduate and postgraduate courses on the World Heritage Convention

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strength: Identification of heritage has been partially completed
- Weaknesses: Due to limited resources and the lack of cooperation between relevant parties, compilation and nomination of sites have been delayed. Qualified personnel and equipment are scarce, and cooperation from religious communities which own heritage properties has not been forthcoming. Efforts have been further hindered by the damages of war. Documentation has been destroyed or rendered irrelevant through the modification of monuments, and sites have been ruined and others made inaccessible by landmines. While public awareness of the importance of heritage has been raised as a result of devastation, greater assistance on the part of the international community is required, particularly to provide training. The country's integration into international networks is insufficient, and assistance from UNESCO has not been systematic. There is a mismatch between the large number of endangered sites and the shortage of available funds, aggravated by the inability of post-war legislation to prevent illegal and inexpert rehabilitation efforts

Proposed actions:

- Adoption of national legislation on the protection of cultural monuments
- Development of efficient mechanisms to assess and implement conventions, campaign for the protection of heritage sites at risk, training and awareness raising, site nomination, complete with capacity building, for the World Heritage List
- Participation in international networks
- Creation of a digital archive of monuments
- Fund raising
- All activities may require assistance from the World Heritage Fund