

BULGARIA

I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1974

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

- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Environment and Waters
- National Institute for Cultural Monuments
- Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories, established at national and local levels, have been used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites

I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List was submitted in 1982, revised in 2004
- It is the responsibility of the central government, which prepares the dossier, based on proposals from the local community in the case of cultural heritage
- Revisions are prepared at the national level, in collaboration with professional/scientific institutes

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, consultants/experts, NGOs and professional/scientific institutes
- Motivations for nomination: conservation, honour/prestige, working in partnership, increased funding, site in danger and promotion
- Difficulties during nomination: inadequate staffing, lack of funding
- *Ancient City of Plovdiv*; submitted and considered in 1982; deferred; re-submitted in 2005

Inscriptions

- 7 cultural sites: *Boyana Church* (1979), *Madara Rider* (1979), *Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo* (1979), *Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak* (1979); *Ancient City of Nessebar* (1983); *Rila Monastery* (1983); *Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari* (1985)
- 2 natural sites: *Pirin National Park* (1983); *Srebarna Nature Reserve* (1983)

Benefits of inscription

- Conservation, increased staffing and funding, honour/prestige, working in partnership and promotion

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

Specific legislations

- Cultural Monuments and Museums Act, Protection and Development of Culture Act, Territorial Structural Act, Protected Areas Act, all for the delimitation, utilization and protection of heritage, and decrees and regulations on concrete groups of cultural properties
- Management plans are required for natural heritage
- There is specific planning legislation to protect natural World Heritage, and improved zoning, funding, monitoring and protection measures have been implemented
- Changes to legislation on cultural heritage are envisaged

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Hague Protocol (1954), UNESCO Convention (1970), Granada Convention (1985), Paris Convention (2003) (in progress). Malta Convention (1992), Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 (1999), Paris Convention (2001), Florence Convention (2000), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES (1973), Bonn Convention or CMS (1979), Bern Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

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

- Ministry of Culture with National Institute for Cultural Monuments, responsible for research, control and promotion of properties related to Bulgarian history in and outside the country
- Ministry of Environment and Waters with National Nature Protection Service, and its regional departments, providing management and protection of natural heritage, municipalities, museums and site management authorities
- Heritage conservation is not institutionally integrated
- The private sector, local communities and NGOs are involved

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Management planning, monitoring, sociological investigations, environmental and other research related to protection and conservation of national and World Heritage

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- Funding of World Heritage sites: national and local/regional authority budget allowances, fundraising
- NGOs, private sector
- World Heritage Fund
- The State Party has helped to establish associations for raising and managing domestic and international funds for the protection of heritage
- No additional contributions to the World Heritage Fund have been made

I.09. Training

Professional and institutional training

- Identified training needs: executive and management training for cultural World Heritage, specialised learning in flora/fauna, public relations, foreign languages, computer skills, application of national and international legislation, including the World Heritage Convention, for natural World Heritage
- Heritage training has been received, particularly for the staff of natural World Heritage
- Domestic and international educational institutions and, in their absence, other provisions for natural heritage 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 international training courses/seminars, financial support and experts
- Multi-lateral activities for the protection of cultural sites with Turkey
- Research and restoration of Bulgarian monastery, St. Martyr Georgi Zograph, Mount Athos (Greece)

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- Promotion of World Heritage sites is achieved at international, national and local levels through publications, films, postcards, media campaigns,

internet, postage stamps/medals and on-site provisions

- Presentation and awareness are adequate, however international promotion will be enhanced
- Education of World Heritage protection: nature conservation courses at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, higher education studies on the preservation of cultural monuments, postgraduate qualification programs for architects, and participation in UNESCO's Special Project, Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strength: Legislation provides sufficient protection for existing World Heritage, development of ecotourism, revival of local crafts and traditional productions, establishment of data base for monitoring biological diversity in protected areas, good collaboration among the main Ministries responsible for the implementation of the Convention, increased role of private sector and NGOs in preservation and promotion, public awareness is increasing
- Weaknesses: Lack of appropriate legal provisions is the primary reason that so few new nominations to the World Heritage List have been made in recent years; Funding for monitoring cultural sites and training conservation practitioners is inadequate, staff involved in site protection is insufficiently licensed, regulations for nominating site managers are absent, no management plans and general planning for the protection of inscribed sites is in existence, and research and international cooperation on issues of heritage are limited. While, state subsidies for the promotion of heritage are inadequate, and cooperation between the Ministries of Culture and Education is deficient

Proposed actions:

- Updating of Tentative List
- Revision of nominations on the World Heritage List
- Improvement of legislation and amendment to current legislative system
- Increased central funding for cultural and World Heritage
- Enhanced site management, monitoring, education, professional training and promotional practices
- The majority of activities may require assistance from the World Heritage Fund