

FRANCE

I.01. Introduction

Year of adhesion to the Convention: 1975

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

- Ministry of Culture and Communication, Department of Architecture and Heritage
- Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Department of Nature and Landscapes

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

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

I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List was submitted in 1979
- Revisions submitted in 1996, 2002 and 2003
- The Tentative List is the responsibility of the Central Government, which prepares the dossier in collaboration with the regional authorities and in assistance by a national advisory committee for the World Heritage

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

Nominations

- Nominations are the responsibility of Central government, which prepares the dossier in collaboration with regional/local government and consultants/experts
- Motivations for nomination: conservation, honour/prestige, enhancement, fundraising, working in partnership
- Difficulties during nomination: development pressures, differing interests among the stakeholders, different levels of heritage value

Inscriptions

- 27 cultural sites: *Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay* (1979); *Chartres Cathedral* (1979); *Palace and Park of Versailles* (1979); *Vézelay, Church and Hill* (1979); Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the *Vézère Valley* (1979); *Palace and Park of Fontainebleau* (1981); *Amiens Cathedral* (1981); *Roman Theatre and its Surroundings and the "Triumphal Arch" of Orange* (1981); *Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments* (1981); *Cistercian Abbey of Fontenay* (1981); *Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans* (1982); *Place Stanislas, Place de la*

Carrière and Place d'Alliance in Nancy (1983); *Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe* (1983); *Pont du Gard (Roman Aqueduct)* (1985); *Strasbourg - Grande île* (1988); *Paris, Banks of the Seine* (1991); *Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Former Abbey of Saint-Rémi and Palace of Tau, Reims* (1991); *Bourges Cathedral* (1992); *Historic Centre of Avignon: Papal Palace, Episcopal Ensemble and Avignon Bridge* (1995); *Canal du Midi* (1996); *Historic Fortified City of Carcassonne* (1997); *Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France* (1998); *Historic Site of Lyons* (1998); *Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion* (1998); *The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes* (2000; extension to *Château and Estate of Chambord* inscribed in 1981); *Provins, Town of Medieval Fairs* (2001)¹

- 1 mixed (cultural and natural) site: *Pyrénées – Mont Perdu* (1997, extension in 1999) – transboundary site with Spain
- 1 natural site: *Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve* (1983)²

Benefits of inscription

- Honour/prestige, conservation, working in partnership, increased visitor number, fundraising

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

Specific legislations

- Laws on the protection of cultural and natural heritage are combined in three documents: the Urban planning Code, Heritage Code, Environment Code; Several consultation and incentive policies including natural regional parks, "Cities of Art and History" Label, "French Great sites" label
- Management plans are required
- Specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage sites does not exist, but some structures gathering national, regional and local governments have recently been created to manage complex sites
- There is no plan to change current legislation

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Hague Protocol (1954), UNESCO Convention (1970), Intangible Convention (2003), London Convention (1979), Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1992), UNIDROIT (1995), Ramsar Convention (1971), Bern Convention (1979), Florence Convention (2000), CITES (1973), Bonn Convention (1979), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), Alpine Convention (1989)

Provisions have been integrated into national legislation, policies

¹ Also: *Le Havre, the City Rebuilt by Auguste Perret* (2005).

² Also the transnational site with Belgium: *Belfries of Belgium and France* (1999, 2005).

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Ministry of Culture and Communication, Department of Architecture and Heritage; specialised national services and public institutions, decentralised services of the Ministry of Culture and Communication
- Ministry of Ecology and sustainable development, Department of Nature and Landscapes, decentralised services of the Ministry, public institutions (national parks, reserves...), other Ministries (equipment, agriculture, regional planning, research...), regional and local authorities (regions, department and cities)
- Heritage conservation is institutionally integrated
- The private sector, local communities and NGOs are involved

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Research on heritage conservation (scientific studies on monuments, research on materials deterioration process, conservation and restoration techniques), publications on heritage restoration techniques, creation of a public interest group working on natural places (GIP ATEN)
- Research on heritage knowledge
- Studies linked to site and visitors management

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fundraising

- State Party and local/regional authority budget allowances
- Private sector
- The State Party has not helped to establish associations for raising funds
- Additional contributions to the World Heritage Fund or other funds have been made to contribute to the management of World Heritage sites
- The 'Convention France-UNESCO' agreement for heritage also contributes to World Heritage

I.09. Training

Professional and institutional training

- No training needs for the protection of World Heritage have been identified
- Heritage training has been provided
- National and international educational institutions are considered important

I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation for the protection of World Heritage on the territory of other States Parties: bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements, hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars, financial support, experts
- Measures to avoid damage to World Heritage on the territory of other States Parties: participation in other UN programmes, adoption in 1997 of a France-UNESCO financial and technical convention, research projects, preparatory assistance to preparation of nomination dossiers, numerous initiatives taken at regional and local levels

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- World Heritage has been promoted at national, regional and local levels through publications, films, postcards, media campaigns, Internet
- Presentation and awareness are adequate
- Educational programmes have been developed by the World Heritage sites; awareness-raising activities developed by the "Cities of Art and History" Association and the National and Natural Regional Parks
- Development of different national initiatives (European heritage days), heritage classes, heritage workshops for primary and secondary schools

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: sound legislative and administrative organisation and an efficient training of the bodies involved in heritage protection; numerous initiatives in the field of international co-operation to share know-how and contribute to a better management of the World Heritage sites
- Weaknesses: some sites suffer from a high development pressure and a lack of comprehensive management process; inscription can sometimes be insufficiently taken into consideration by the local authorities; increasing demand for new inscriptions: Presentation and awareness about the Convention have been considerably increased, but are not sufficiently developed

Proposed actions:

- Revision of the Tentative List
- Development of national specific protection, management and enhancement measures intended for World Heritage sites
- Creation of a French World Heritage sites network;

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

- Continuation of the international cooperation programmes, especially in the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention
- Display of common information on the French World Heritage sites
- These activities do not require assistance from the World Heritage Fund