

# GEORGIA

## I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1992

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

- Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia (World Cultural Heritage & European Cooperation Division, Cultural Heritage Department)

## I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Incomplete inventories established several decades ago at national level are not corresponding to the contemporary standards
- Urgent need to renew existing inventories
- State Party works on the establishment of the State Register of Movable Monuments and global inventory/documentation of cultural heritage monuments

## I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List submitted 1993
- Prepared at national level (Monuments Protection Department of Georgia) Actual Tentative List does not reflect the real potential of Georgian cultural and natural heritage due to the absence of the State Register for Immovable Monuments. State Party received International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the revision of its Tentative List in 2005

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

Nominations

- Central Government (Ministry of Culture) in partnership with independent experts is responsible for the preparation of nominations
- Motivations for nomination: site in danger; conservation of site; increased funding
- Difficulties during nomination: lack of national and local/regional cooperation, inadequate staffing, lack of funding, development pressures, and lack of political support
- Sites previously deferred: Tbilisi Historic District (2001), Vardzia-Khertvisi Historic Area (2001)

Inscriptions

- 3 cultural sites: *Historical Monuments of Mtskheta* (1994), *Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery* (1994), *Upper Svaneti* (1996)

Benefits of inscription

- Lobbying/political pressure

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

Specific legislations

- The framework laws “on the Cultural Heritage Protection”, and “on the Environment Protection” are main legal acts regulating respectively the protection of cultural and natural heritage
- No specific legislation on the World Heritage has been established
- There is a need to fundamentally reform the legal base in the field of heritage preservation
- Specific structure responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention was created within the Ministry of Culture in 2004;
- Management plans are still not established for inscribed properties

Other Conventions

Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1992); Hague Convention (1954); Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954; UNESCO Convention (1970); Malta Convention (1992); CITES (1973); Bonn Convention (1979); Basel Convention (1989); Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

The conventions have found their respective reflection in the legislation and Government's policy. Their application is mainly coordinated by the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport of Georgia, Ministry for the Protection of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment Protection & Natural Resources, Academy of Sciences of Georgia
- Museum-Reserves
- Charity foundations and NGOs are involved in heritage conservation and preservation
- Local communities are not participating in protection and conservation

## I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- “Mtskheta Management and Tourism Master Plan”; Engineering research of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral

## Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

The Action Plans “on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention” for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 and specific study “General Directions of the State Policy Regarding the Implementation of World Heritage Convention in Georgia” were prepared by Ministry of Culture (World Heritage Division)

need of decentralisation of the cultural heritage competent institutions; lack of funding for cultural heritage conservation; need for reforming of legal base; inexistence of the site managers system; need for capacity building and training of staff of the cultural heritage competent institutions

### I.08. Financial Resources

#### National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- World Heritage sites are funded by the State budget and fundraising
- NGOs and private sector
- International assistance (World Heritage Fund, Council of Europe), credit of the World Bank
- State helped to establish the Fund for the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of Georgia
- Georgia 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 (training courses for site managers)

### I.10. International Co-operation

- Georgia has not cooperated with any other States Parties for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the World Heritage located on their territories
- Georgia has 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 at international, national, regional and local levels by producing specific publications, films, postcards, and web pages
- Presentation and awareness about World Heritage sites is not adequate in Georgia
- Each year specific projects for pupils and students are organised

### I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

#### Conclusion and proposed actions

- Weaknesses: non-existence of State Register of immovable monuments; inadequate Tentative List;

#### Proposed actions:

- Creation of the State Register of immovable monuments
- Inventory and documentation of the World Heritage sites
- Revision of Tentative List
- Training of site managers
- Re-definition of the boundaries and core/buffer zones of the World Heritage sites
- Preparation of the Management Plans for the World Heritage sites
- Reforming of the legal base
- These actions require International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund