

ISRAEL

I.01. Introduction

Year of adhesion to the Convention: 1999

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

- Israel National Commission for UNESCO/ Israel World Heritage Committee

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Three agencies have their own comprehensive register: the Israel Antiquities Authority, The Council for the Preservation of Buildings and Historic Sites and the Israel Nature and National Parks Authority
- Israel National Commission of UNESCO and Israel World Heritage Committee have commissioned a study to develop a unified national register system

I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List submitted in 2000
- Revisions submitted in 2001, 2004
- Responsibility lies with the Israel World Heritage Committee
- Proposals made by stakeholders in the Israel World Heritage Committee and through a public call to all NGOs and ministries to propose sites
- Presented in geographical order
- A Tentative List think-tank established 2003

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

Nominations

- Responsible for nominations is government in partnership with The Antiquities Authority, National Park Authority and The Council of Preservation. Israel National Commission for UNESCO commissions related authorities to prepare nomination dossier, including contacts with local authorities
- Motivations for nomination: conservation of site, honour/prestige, working in partnership
- Difficulties encountered: lack of national, regional co-operation, inadequate staffing and lack of funding
- *Makteshim Country* - deferred in 2000

Inscriptions

- 3 cultural sites: *Masada* (2001); *Old City of Acre* (2001); *White City of Tel-Aviv -- the Modern Movement* (2003)¹

¹ Also: *Biblical Tels - Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba* (2005) and *Incense Route - Desert Cities in the Negev* (2005).

Benefits of inscription

- Honour/prestige, conservation of site, working in partnership

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

Specific legislations

- The Antiquities Law, Planning and Building law, National Parks, Nature Reserves and National Sites Law
- There is a special legislation regarding World Heritage sites concerning the conservation of Modern Heritage
- Management plans are required through the agencies responsible
- The Israel National Commission has legal standing in matters concerning sites on the Tentative List and a consultation with IWCH should be done on all Master Plans which might have an impact on World Heritage sites

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Hague Protocol (1954), UNIDROIT (1995), Ramsar Convention (1971), CMS (1979), CITES (1973), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Israel Antiquities Authority, The Council for preservation for Buildings and Historical Sites, Israel National Parks and Nature Reserves Authority operate on national level
- Cultural and natural heritage is institutionally integrated by cooperation between national agencies
- Municipalities have a Conservation Committee and involved through consultation
- NGOs are involved
- Private sector is not involved

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Site specific pilot studies and expert meetings

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- State Party and local/regional authority budget allowance, fundraising and NGO funding. Financial

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

assistance for nomination of sites and for management plans and site-specific for damaged site

- Additional contribution to World Heritage Fund 2003 and 2004

Develop national conservation policy and the Israel Heritage Centre

I.09. Training

Professional and Institutional training

- Primary needs identified: Assimilation of the 1972 Convention and capacity building of staff and in decision-making

I.10. International Co-operation

- Co-operation with other States Parties; distribution of material/information, financial support, expert exchange
- Cooperation with Auschwitz management plan
- World Heritage expert meeting of the Great Rift Valley in 2002
- No twinning of World Heritage Sites

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- World Heritage site are promoted through publications, films, internet on international, national, regional and local level
- Awareness days for the local school system at World Heritage site, website, translation
- Reader on conservation, active participation in development planning, fund raising, think-tank to deal with the issue of education in in-service training. No curriculum, annual study trips of schools in World Heritage sites

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Establishment of the Israel World Heritage Committee and partnerships with NGOs and national authorities
- Weaknesses: Lack of stable funding for operation of Israel World Heritage Committee

Proposed actions:

- Create a National Register of sites
- Develop general management plan and management plans for all World Heritage sites on the Tentative List
- Establish a documentation and resource centre for all activities carried out by all agencies, incorporation of World Heritage Convention to existing laws