

# LITHUANIA

## I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1992

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

- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Environment

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

Status of national inventories

- Inventories for cultural and natural heritage are established at local and national level, and are used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites

## I.03. The Tentative List

- Original Tentative List submitted
- The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Culture are responsible for identifying the properties on the Tentative List
- Prepared following the recommendations of municipal administrations, scientific institutions, cultural and public organisations

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

Nominations

- Central government and site managers are responsible for preparing World Heritage site nominations. The central government appoints experts/consultants to carry out the work in cooperation with site managers
- Motivations for nomination: conservation of site, increased funding, working in partnership, prestige, and political pressure

Inscriptions

- 3 cultural sites: *Vilnius Historic Centre* (1994); *Curonian Spit* (2000 - transboundary site with Russian Federation); *Kernavė Archaeological Site (Cultural Reserve of Kernavė)*(2004)<sup>1</sup>

Benefits of inscription

- Honour/prestige, conservation of sites, lobbying/political pressure, partnerships, increased funding, and increased cultural tourism

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

Specific legislations

- Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage (2004), Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Properties (1995), Law on Protected Areas, Law on Territorial Planning, Law of the Sea Coastal Zone, and local level Management Plans and Regulations of Protected Areas
- Vilnius Old Town Revitalisation Strategy, General Plan of Vilnius City, Legal Provisions of the Kursiu Nerija (Curonian Spit) National Park
- The General Plan of Kursiu Nerija will be substituted by the Planning Document (Scheme), and the Vilnius Old Town Regeneration Project will be substituted by the Vilnius Old Town Detail Plan
- There is no specific planning legislation to protect World Heritage sites
- Management plans are required for cultural and natural heritage

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Protocol to the Hague Convention (1954), UNESCO Convention (1970), Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1992), Rome Convention (1995), Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 (1999), Paris Convention (2003), Florence Convention (2000), CITES Convention (1973), Bonn Convention (1979), Bern Convention (1979), Basel Convention (1989) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). Ramsar Convention (1971)

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

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- Ministry of Culture; Department of Cultural Heritage Protection, Ministry of Environment; State Protected Areas Service, Centre of Cultural Heritage, municipalities, Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency, Administrations of National Park Reserves, and the Academy of Cultural Heritage. Services are provided at national and local levels
- The conservation of cultural and natural heritage is not institutionally integrated
- Protection and conservation of heritage involves private sector, local communities and NGOs

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

- Heritage research and development programmes; Studies of Vilnius Old Town (1988 – 1992), Inventory of Vilnius Old Town (1996 - 2000), Archaeological studies of the State Cultural

<sup>1</sup> Also the transnational serial site: *Struve Geodetic Arc* (2005).

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

Reserve of Kernave, and Monitoring programmes and studies of Kursiu Nerija

“Community Education in Heritage Protection” and the planned “World Heritage in Young Hands”

### I.08. Financial Resources

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

- World Heritage sites are funded by State-Party budget allowance, local/regional authority budget allowance
- Fundraising, private sector
- International assistance from the World Heritage Fund
- EU programmes

### I.09. Training

#### Professional and Institutional training

- Training needs for institutions and individuals concerned with the protection of World Heritage have been identified as management of legislation, strategic planning and legislation, comprehension of sustainable development, and understanding of balance of heritage protection and development priorities
- Key training institutions in the field of World Heritage protection are: ICCROM, Getty Conservation, and Göteborg University, Vilnius University, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Vytautas Magnus University, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Kaunas University of Technology, Klaipeda University, Lithuanian University of Agriculture, and the Academy of Cultural Heritage

### I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation with other States Parties for the identification, protection, conservation and preservation of World Heritage has been carried out through bi- and multilateral agreements, hosting and/or attending international courses/seminars
- Exchange of experts and through bi-lateral cooperation with the Russian Federation on managing the risk of the oil extraction platform D-6 to Curonian Spit

### I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

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

- World Heritage sites are presented and promoted through publications, films, postcards, internet, postage/stamps, exhibitions, and celebrations on an international, national, regional and local level
- The presentation and general awareness of World Heritage sites is considered adequate
- Education programmes in the field of World Heritage protection are the UNDP pilot project

### I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

#### Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Laws, legal acts and institutions are updated to live up to the Conventions and EU Directives on natural and cultural heritage; World Heritage management institutions are established; Lithuania has developed strong expertise in heritage protection and participates in relevant forums to share this knowledge
- Weaknesses: Insufficient cooperation with municipalities in nomination process; Lack of specific laws on the protection of World Heritage sites; Activities on natural and cultural heritage are not sufficiently harmonised

#### Proposed actions:

- Involvement of municipalities in preparation of nominations
- Enact special law on the protection of World Heritage properties
- Formulate cooperation agreement with the Russian Federation on Curonian Spit in case of oil spill
- Production of film for the promotion of World Heritage sites in Lithuania