

UZBEKISTAN

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1993

Organisation submitting the report

Ministry of Cultural Affairs,
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1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- Inventory preparation has been carried out regularly by the government at national & local levels in 1973, 1981, 1983, and 2002-2003.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- 21 sites submitted in 1996 (7 of these sites were united in 2001 as a single cultural nomination 'Samarkand, Crossroads of Cultures').
- Although no natural heritage sites have yet been nominated, the Government has signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992).
- "In the meantime, the Government is planning to revise the Tentative List by including several natural sites, such as Chatkal, Boysun, Nurata, Zaamin, Shakhimardan, Dengizkil and others, as well as revise some cultural sites in the South of Uzbekistan (the Palace of Kyrk-Kyz, Djarkugan's Minaret, the Complex of Khakim at-Termiwi, the Mausoleum of Ak Astana Baba), and add Fayez Tepa, Kora Tepa and other sites under one title as 'Termez'."

Nominations and the nomination process

- 1990 * Samarkand (deferred)
- 1991 Ichan Kala of Khiva
- 1993 Historic Centre of Bukhara
- 2000 Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz
- 2001 Samarkand - Crossroads of Cultures (resubmitted)
- Applications for the Tentative List are collected from local municipalities, followed by regional and national expert historical & cultural evaluations.

1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

Integration of heritage and planning

- The 'Department for Preservation & Management of Cultural Monuments and Properties' is the main government body responsible for cultural heritage.
- The National Programme 'Meros' ('Heritage') was adopted by Presidential Decree in June 1995 covering the conservation, advertising & exploitation of cultural properties.
- Other measures include the (i) Law 'On protection and exploitation of cultural heritage properties' (2001); (ii) Decree by the Cabinet of Ministers (2002); and (iii) 'Town Building Code' (2002).
- An 'Inter-agency Council on Preservation of Cultural Properties' exists under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Participation of local communities

- Cultural heritage belonging to the State cannot be privatised.
- However, according to the provisions of the 2001 Law, landowners are obliged to preserve the "external and internal appearance" of their properties which are included into a "passport".
- Self-governing bodies (called 'Mahalla') involve local communities in the safeguarding of heritage.

Tourism Development

- The Presidential Decree (1999) on the development of tourism until 2005 aims to publish reference books, 'The Great Silk Road' newspaper, web-sites & the following multimedia CD-Roms: "Amir Temur", "Imam al-Bukhari and Akhmad al-Fargoni", "Blue Ceramics of Samarkand", "Oriental Miniatures", "Boysun", "Termez", "Shashmaqom", "Uzbekistan".
- The following book albums were published: "Role of Amir Temur in the World History", "Khiva - The City of Thousands Domes", "Bukhara - The Pearl of the East", "Imam al-Bukhari: Lumière de la Profondeur des Siècles", "Samarkand", "L'art de l'Ouzbekistan", "Great Silk Roads", "Termez", "Shakhrisyabz". Video-films on similar subjects were issued by "Uzbektelefilm" Studio.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- Thematic plans for scientific conservation funded by the State budget are elaborated on the basis of "requests from local inspections". Priority is given to sites on the WH List & Tentative List.
- Government funding has increased from some US\$880,000 in 2000 to US\$1.5 million in 2003.
- Yearly budgets are "target-oriented" to specific properties: 1995-96 for Samarkand, 1996-97 for Bukhara & Khiva, and so on.

Professional

- 182 staff work for the Department and its different “inspection teams”.
- Scientific & technical documentation is disseminated by “regional specialised restoration organisations”.
- Training institutions include the : (i) Tashkent and Samarkand ‘Architecture & Building Construction Institutes’; (ii) Tashkent Arts & Design Institute; (iii) regional training centre in Samarkand (established in 2001); and (iv) a “network of various colleges and lyceums for training of master-restorers & building constructors”.
- Two international symposia on ‘Blue Ceramics of Samarkand’ & ‘Ground water and Soil Salinity’ (June 2000), and a National Training Seminar (Jan. 2001) were organized by UNESCO.

New and improved services

- “Collaboration of all partners (governmental & non-governmental)... protect[s] about 10 thousand cultural heritage properties”. Major NGO partners include: ‘Oltin Meros’, ‘Khunarmand’, ‘Usto’ & ‘Mussavir’.

Issues to be addressed

- Technical difficulties are encountered relating to mapping and incorporating “international experience”.
- Properties located in desert areas and built with earthen unbaked bricks are especially vulnerable to climatic extremes of rain & snow. Improvement in construction materials is therefore desirable.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- Bilateral assistance is gratefully acknowledged from Japan, Italy, France, Russia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan.
- 3 ‘International Charity Funds’ are mentioned: ‘Oltin Meros’, ‘Imam al Bukhori’ & ‘Muhammad Babur’.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows:

1995	\$34,000	Emergency, Bukhara
1997	\$16,000	Emergency, Bukhara
1999	\$30,000	Training, Nominations preparation
2000	\$5,000	Promotional, National teacher training workshop
2002	\$5,748	Training, WH education for youth of Central Asia
- * Extra-budgetary funds mobilised by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage include:

2000-05	US\$702,860	Preservation, restoration: Favez-Tepa, Termez (Japan)
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1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- Bukhara city was awarded by the UNESCO City for Peace Prize for 2000-2001 (Certificate, Prize, US\$ 20,000).
- UNESCO Chair on Management and Preservation of Historic Centers at the Samarkand State Institute of Architecture and Civil Engineering was opened in October 1999.
- New projects on intangible heritage have started such as the ‘Ma’mun Academy’ in Khiva, ‘Sharq Taronalari’ music festivals in Samarkand, and handicraft centres in Bukhara & Shakhriyabz.
- Documentary films, anniversary coins, postcards & stamps have been completed on sites inscribed on the WH List. TV/Radio programmes are planned.
- UNESCO proclaimed “Cultural Space of Boysun District of Uzbekistan” as Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (2001). The First Open Folklore Festival “Boysun Bakhori” was organized between 23 and 28 May 2002. The Second Open Folklore Festival “Boysun Bakhori” will be organized between 14 and 19 May 2003. UNESCO approved a funds-in-trust project on inventory and academic studies of “Cultural Space of Boysun District” in 2003-2004.
- The ‘WH in Young Hands’ Kit has been translated into Uzbek and disseminated through the ASPnet schools around the country. Annual Central Asian Youth Camps on World Heritage were organized by the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO in 1997-2002.
- 10 hours per week are dedicated to cultural heritage and spirituality in the school curriculum.
- Two Community Learning Centers on Carpet Weaving were established by the UNESCO Tashkent Office in Bukhara and Khiva. Community Learning Center on Suzanne Weaving is being established in Shakhriyabz.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- Between 1993 and 1996, most heritage efforts were directed towards “engineering fortification” and the “conservation of surviving parts”.
- A second stage (1996-2010) has begun to address geological issues, limit new constructions, promote handicraft workshops & community centres (‘Mahalla’), and the provision of infrastructure (gas, water, electricity).
- Elaborate an inventory of natural sites (under the State Committee for Nature Protection) and revise the Tentative List.

- Introduce new informational technologies (such as GIS) for the monitoring & management of cultural sites, in particular for seismic strengthening, repair materials, and the restoration of murals & frescoes.
- Establish an international centre for the protection of urban heritage in Bukhara with the support of UNESCO Tashkent, and bilateral assistance from Italy & Belgium (project 'CAREBUK').
- * Following the recommendation of a WHC monitoring mission to Shakhrisyabz, the government of Uzbekistan submitted an emergency request in 2003 for the stabilisation of the Ak Saram Palace. It is hoped to be approved.