

VANUATU

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 2002

Organisation submitting the report

- Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- Ongoing since 1990.
- Almost 3000 sites have been surveyed and registered.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- A preliminary Tentative List has been submitted. To prepare an updated Tentative List, preparatory assistance request has been submitted to the WHC.

Nominations and the nomination process

- No nominations have yet been prepared.

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

Integration of heritage and planning

- The Environmental and Conservation Act, 2002.
- Preservation of Sites and Artifacts Act, provides for protection of important cultural sites.

Participation of local communities

- Vanuatu Cultural Centre has a well-established system of over 100 community-based fieldworkers trained in cultural heritage protection and management.

Tourism Development

- No information provided.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- No information provided.

Professional

- Vanuatu Cultural Centre has experienced site surveyors and archaeologists.

New and improved services

- All land-development projects are subject to Environment Impact Assessment under the Environment and Conservation Act, 2002.

Issues to be addressed

- Funds to pursue conservation activities are very limited.
- There is a need for assistance from UNESCO to carry out sites surveying and community awareness programmes.
- A preparatory assistance request has been submitted to the WH Centre and is awaiting approval.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- No information provided.
- *International Assistance from WHF as follows:
2003 \$16,200 Preparatory Assistance for development of site inventories and preparation of Tentative List

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- Recently submitted preparatory assistance request to WH Centre proposes to conduct awareness for rural communities and policy-makers.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- There is an urgent need of assistance from UNESCO in identification, preparation and conservation of sites.