

1. Introduction

1.1 - State Party

Cook Islands

1.2 - Date of ratification of the World Heritage Convention

16/01/2009

1.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Reporting

Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage
UNESCO National Commission

1.4 - Primary government authorities responsible for the implementation of the Convention

- Ngatuaine Maui
Ministry of Cultural Development
Director of Cultural Heritage

Comment

Ngatuaine Maui is no longer a focal point. Focal point is now: Sonny Williams Secretary for Culture COOK ISLANDS
Address PO. Box 8 Rarotonga Cook Islands Telephone (682) 207 25 Fax (682) 237 25 Email sonny@oyster.net.ck

1.5 - Other key institutions responsible

- Ms Elizabeth Munro
Biodiversity Officer
National Environment Service
Domain: Natural

1.6 - Comments

No comments

2. Inventories / lists / registers for cultural and natural heritage

2.1 - Cultural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process commenced
Regional / provincial / state	Not applicable
Local	Process commenced
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	Not applicable

2.2 - Natural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state	Not applicable
Local	Process completed or continually updated
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	Not applicable

2.3 - Are inventories/lists/registers adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage in the State Party?

Inventories/lists/registers are inadequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.

2.4 - Are inventories / lists / registers used to protect the identified cultural heritage?

Inventories / lists / registers are not actively used for the protection of cultural heritage.

2.5 - Are inventories / lists / registers used to protect the identified natural heritage?

Inventories / lists / registers are frequently used for the protection of natural heritage.

2.6 - Are inventories / lists / registers used for the identification of properties for the Tentative List?

Inventories / lists / registers are sometimes used for the identification of potential World Heritage Properties.

2.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to inventories / lists / registers of cultural and natural heritage (questions 2.1 to 2.6)

The Cook Islands have established a National Biodiversity Database which is the responsibility of the Natural Heritage Trust – under the auspices of Gerald McCormack.

3. Tentative List

3.1 - Potential future nominations (Property name / anticipated year of nomination)

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3.2 - Tools used for a preliminary assessment of the potential Outstanding Universal Value

ICOMOS thematic studies

3.3 - Level of involvement in the preparation of the Tentative List

National government institution(s)	Fair
Regional / provincial / state / government(s)	Not applicable
Local government(s)	Fair
Other government departments	Fair
UNESCO National Commission	Poor
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Fair
Local communities / residents	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Good
Landowners	Fair
Local industries	Fair
Non Governmental Organization(s)	Fair
Consultants / experts	Poor
Site manager / coordinator(s)	Not applicable

3.4 - Was the authority(ies) listed in question 1.4 responsible for the approval and submission of the Tentative List?

Yes

3.5 - If not, what authority(ies) is responsible for the approval and submission of the Tentative List?

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3.6 - Do you intend to update your Tentative List within the next six years?

Yes

3.7 - Comments

Tentative list for the Cook Island is still in progress.
Consultations with the wider community is still required.

4. Nominations**4.1 - Property****Comment**

No property proposed yet

4.2 - Involvement in recent nominations

National government institution(s)	Not applicable
Regional / provincial / state government(s)	Not applicable
Local government(s)	Not applicable
Other government departments	Not applicable
UNESCO National Commission	Not applicable
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Not applicable
Local communities / residents	Not applicable
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Not applicable
Local industries	Not applicable
Non Governmental Organization(s)	Not applicable
Consultants / experts	Not applicable
Site manager / coordinator	Not applicable

4.3 - Perceived benefits of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List

Strengthened protection of sites (legislative, regulatory, institutional and / or traditional)	High benefit
Enhanced conservation practices	High benefit
Catalyst for wider community appreciation of heritage	High benefit
Improved presentation of sites	High benefit
Enhanced honour / prestige	High benefit
Increased funding	High benefit
Additional tool for lobbying / political influence	High benefit
Stimulus for enhanced partnerships	High benefit
Increased recognition for tourism and public use	High benefit
Stimulus for economic development in surrounding communities	High benefit
Others (please provide details in 4.4)	Some benefit

4.4 - Comments

Educational value and awareness for our local communities and school children

5. General Policy Development**5.1 - Legislation****Comment**

Cultural and Historic Places Act 1994-95

5.2 - Legislation not listed in 5.1

Marine Park Policy / 2011 in progress / National / Natural / Nil /

5.3 - Comment

Policy is used to identified marine areas of high importance and significance in the Cook Islands

5.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulations) adequate for the identification,**conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and natural heritage?**

The legal framework is adequate for the identification, conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

5.5 - Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulations) for the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and natural heritage be enforced?

Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened.

5.6 - Other International Conventions adhered**Comment**

CITIES and other International Environment Conventions

5.7 - Implementation of International Conventions into national policies

There is limited coordination and integration.

5.8 - States Party's policies to give heritage a function in the life of communities

There are no specific policies to give heritage a function in the life of communities.

5.9 - Integration of heritage into comprehensive / larger scale planning programmes

There are no specific policies, but nonetheless this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.

5.10 - Comments

More cooperation is required from all Government Agencies and Adhoc bodies for a noticeable progress – they are all divided.

6. Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation**6.1 - To what degree do the principal agencies / institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of this heritage?**

There is limited cooperation between the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

6.2 - To what degree do other government agencies cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of natural and cultural heritage?

There is limited cooperation between other government agencies and the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

6.3 - To what degree do different levels of government cooperate in the identification,

conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage?

There is limited cooperation between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

6.4 - Are the services provided by the agencies / institutions adequate for the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage properties in your country?

There is some capacity to conserve, protect and present World Heritage properties but significant deficiencies remain.

6.5 - Comments

There is capacity for Government Agencies to be more proactive in conserving and preserving heritage sites, but the Ministry of Cultural Development needs to drive these efforts and initiatives.

7. Scientific and Technical Studies and Research

7.1 - Is there a research programme or project specifically for the benefit of World Heritage properties?

There is no research programme specifically addressing World Heritage.

7.2 - Research projects

- N/A / N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A

7.3 - Comments

There are no research currently being conducted on World Heritage in the Cook Islands or by Cook Islanders.

8. Financial Status and Human Resources

8.1 - Sources of funding

National government funds	Minor source of fixed term funding
Other levels of government (provincial, state, local)	Not applicable
International assistance from the World Heritage Fund	Not applicable
International multilateral funding (e.g. World Bank, IDB, European Union)	Not applicable
International bilateral funding (e.g. AFD, GTZ, DGCS, GEF, etc.)	Not applicable
NGOs (international and / or national)	Not applicable
Private sector funds	Not applicable
Other (Please specify in 8.6)	Not applicable

8.2 - Involvement of State Party in the establishment of foundations or associations for raising funds and donation for the protection of World Heritage

No

8.3 - National policies for the allocation of site revenues for conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage

No

8.4 - Is the current budget sufficient to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively at the national level?

The available budget is inadequate for basic conservation, protection and presentation and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to conserve and protect cultural and natural heritage.

8.5 - Are available human resources adequate to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively at the national level?

Human resources are inadequate for conservation, protection and presentation needs of cultural and natural heritage.

8.6 - Comments

Ministry of Cultural Development no longer provides funding or personnel to implement World Heritage in the Cook Islands. An injection of funds is required to restart world heritage activities in the Cook Islands and this could be from outside sources

9. Training

9.1 - Formal training / educational institutions / programs

- N/A / N/A / N/A
- N/A

9.2 - Training needs

Conservation	High priority
Education	High priority
Promotion	High priority
Interpretation	Medium priority
Administration	Medium priority
Visitor management	Medium priority
Community outreach	High priority
Risk preparedness	Low priority
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low priority
Other	Low priority

9.3 - Does the State Party have a national training/ educational strategy to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation?

There is no national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation.

9.4 - Comments

Heritage conservation needs to be introduced into the school curricula

10. International Cooperation

10.1 - Cooperation with other States Parties

No cooperation

10.2 - Twinned World Heritage properties with others

Yes

10.3 - Comments

There have been discussions with other Pacific Countries ie: New Zealand and Australia with regards to Training programs and exchange programs, and the possibility of combined nomination of a property on the World Heritage List – eg: Avana Harbor site. Unfortunately, there has been no follow up on these discussions.

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.1. Media used for World Heritage sites promotion

11.1.1 - Publications

Not applicable

11.1.2 - Films / TV

Not applicable

11.1.3 - Media campaigns

Not applicable

11.1.4 - Internet

Not applicable

11.1.5 - Postage stamps, medals

Not applicable

11.1.6 - World Heritage Day

Not applicable

11.1.7 - Translation and diffusion of publications made available by the World Heritage Centre

Not applicable

11.1.8 - Other (please specify in 11.1.8)

Not applicable

11.1.9 - Comments

World Heritage is not actively promoted in the Cook Islands because of lack of resources.

11.2. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.2.1 - Strategy to raise awareness among different stakeholders

There are no strategies to raise awareness about conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage.

11.2.2 - Level of general awareness

Private Sector	No awareness
Youth	No awareness
Communities living in/around heritage sites	Fair
Tourism industry	Fair
Decision makers and public officials	Poor
Indigenous peoples	Fair
General public	Poor

11.2.3 - Does the State Party participate in UNESCO's *World Heritage in Young Hands* programme?

The State Party participates in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands programme.

11.2.4 - Level of frequency of activities

Courses for teachers for the use of the <i>World Heritage in Young Hands Kit</i>	Once
Courses/activities for students within the school programmes	Never
Youth Forums	Never
Skills-training courses for students	Never
Organized school visits to World Heritage properties/cultural and natural sites	Never
Activities linked to heritage within the framework of UNESCO Clubs/Associations	Once
Other (comment below)	Never

11.2.5 - Comments

The World Heritage Education component has not been active for the past 5 years. With the transition of UNESCO into the Ministry of Education there may be some improvements.

12. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

12.1. State Party's implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*

12.1.1 - Identification of heritage

Identification of heritage
Inventories are inadequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.
Inventories / lists / registers are sometimes used for the identification of potential World Heritage Properties.

12.1.2 - National Inventories

National Inventories
National : Process commenced
Regional / provincial / state : Not applicable
National : Process completed or continually updated

National Inventories
Regional / provincial / state : Not applicable

12.1.3 - Tentative List

Tentative List
Yes

12.1.4 - Legal framework

Legal framework
Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened.

12.1.5 - Implementation of international conventions within national policies

Implementation of international conventions within national policies
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12.1.6 - Communities

Communities
Local communities / residents: Fair
Level of involvement / consultation of local landowners: Good
Level of involvement / consultation of local industries: Fair
Local communities / residents: Not applicable
Indigenous peoples: Not applicable
Landowners: Not applicable

12.1.7 - Larger-scale planning

Larger-scale planning
There are no specific policies, but nonetheless this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.

12.1.8 - Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation
There is limited cooperation between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

12.1.9 - Scientific and Technical Studies and Research

Scientific and Technical Studies and Research
There is no research programme specifically addressing World Heritage.

12.1.10 - Financial status

Financial status
The available budget is inadequate for basic conservation, protection and presentation and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to conserve and protect cultural and natural heritage.

12.1.11 - Human resources

Human resources
Human resources are inadequate for conservation, protection and presentation needs of cultural and natural heritage.

12.1.12 - Training

Training
No national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.

12.1.13 - International cooperation

International cooperation
No cooperation

12.1.14 - Education, Information and awareness building

Education, Information and awareness building
Private Sector : No awareness
Youth : No awareness
Communities living in/around heritage sites : Fair

12.2. Actions for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* (identified from table 12.1).

12.2.1 - Please select the top issues (up to six)

Please refer to question 5.2

12.3. Priority Actions Assessment

12.3.2 - Priority actions assessment

2 Inventories / lists / registers for cultural and natural heritage						
		Action	Short description	Authority(ies) responsible	Timeframe	May this action require International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund?
2.3	Inventories are inadequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.	Cook Islands does not have any ongoing project currently. But if the Cook Islands' resources are allowed, the Cook Islands wishes to implement a cultural mapping exercise.	A cultural mapping exercise was started but not yet completed and the Cook Islands is including this into the Official Questionnaire for the Population Censuses for this year 2011.	Ministry of Cultural Development assisted by the CI Statistics office.	12 – 18 months	The Cook Islands may require assistance from World Heritage Fund.

12.3.3 - Additional actions for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

N/A

13. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise**13.1 - Was the questionnaire easy to use and clear to understand?**

Yes

13.2 - Please provide suggestions for improvement:**13.3 - Please rate the level of support from the following entities for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire**

World Heritage Centre	Poor
UNESCO (other sectors)	No support
UNESCO National Commission	No support
ICOMOS International	Not applicable
IUCN International	Not applicable
ICCROM	Not applicable
ICOMOS national / regional	Not applicable
IUCN national / regional	Not applicable

13.4 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Little of the required information was accessible

13.5 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from the previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Not applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not applicable
State Party	Not applicable
Site Managers	Not applicable

13.6 - Comments

The former focal point was requested to assist with filling out the form, therefore it is not a user friendly system for officers that are new to the UNESCO system.

14. Thank you