

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 - State Party**

Marshall Islands

**1.2 - Date of ratification of the World Heritage Convention**

24/04/2002

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

Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage
External experts

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

- Richard A. Bruce  
Ministry of Education  
Assistant Secretary for Administration, Finance & Human Resources

**Comment**

Kino Kabua Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs PO Box 1349  
Majuro MH 96960 Phone: +692 625-3181 Fax: +692 625-4979  
kinokabua@gmail.com

**1.5 - Other key institutions responsible**

- Wilbur Heine  
Secretary of Internal Affairs/ Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Office  
Domain: Cultural

**1.6 - Comments**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the official focal point for the World Heritage Convention and will be the conduit for all official correspondence. The Historic Preservation Office is the primary agency implementing the World Heritage Convention at the national level.

**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	Not applicable
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	Not applicable

**2.2 - Natural Heritage (Level and Status)**

National	No process established
Regional / provincial / state	Not applicable
Local	Process commenced
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?**

No inventories / lists / registers have been established for natural heritage.

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

No inventories / lists / registers have been established for cultural and natural heritage.

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

The RMI National Register exists in the legislation and cultural properties have been deemed eligible for inclusion on the Register since the Historic Preservation Act was enacted in 1991. However, the creation of a formalized, centralized database to house the Register and to inventory cultural properties identified in survey reports is in progress and pending funding.

**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
IUCN thematic studies
Filling the gaps – an action plan for the future by ICOMOS, Gaps analysis by IUCN
UNESCO's Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

**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	Not applicable
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Not applicable
Local communities / residents	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Not applicable
Local industries	Not applicable
Non Governmental Organization(s)	Not applicable
Consultants / experts	Good

Site manager / coordinator(s)	Good
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**3.4 - Was the authority(ies) listed in question 1.4 responsible for the approval and submission of the Tentative List?**

No

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

Alele Museum, Library and National Archives / <a href="http://alelemuseum.tripod.com/Index.html">http://alelemuseum.tripod.com/Index.html</a> Clary Makroro / Director (formerly) / Post Office Box 629 Majuro MH 96960 / (692) 625-3372/3550 / (692) 625-3226 / <a href="mailto:alele@ntamar.net">alele@ntamar.net</a> / cultural /
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**3.6 - Do you intend to update your Tentative List within the next six years?**

No

**3.7 - Comments**

Note that the Alele Museum no longer has responsibility for aspects of World Heritage. Responsibility for the Tentative List now resides with the Historic Preservation Office.

**4. Nominations**

**4.1 - Property**

Name	Date of submission	Status
Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site	2009-01-28	inscribed
Ailinginae Atoll – Aelonin-ae	2009-01-30	Incomplete

**4.2 - Involvement in recent nominations**

National government institution(s)	Poor
Regional / provincial / state government(s)	Not applicable
Local government(s)	Good
Other government departments	No involvement
UNESCO National Commission	No involvement
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Not applicable
Local communities / residents	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Fair
Local industries	No involvement
Non Governmental Organization(s)	No involvement
Consultants / experts	Good
Site manager / coordinator	Fair

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

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

Stimulus for economic development in surrounding communities	Limited benefit
Others (please provide details in 4.4)	

**4.4 - Comments**

Having Bikini Atoll as a World Heritage site is an opportunity for the Marshall Islands to come to terms with our nuclear and colonial heritage, and a potential sources of pride. It is unlikely to bring economic benefit due to the remote location and difficulty of access.

**5. General Policy Development**

**5.1 - Legislation**

**Comment**

The Historic Preservation Legislation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, consisting of the Historic Preservation Act 1991 and Regulations Passed Pursuant to the Historic Preservation Act of 1991, provides for the protection of cultural heritage sites. The National Environmental Protection Act 1984 and the Marine Resources Act 1997 and regulations pursuant to these acts provide for some protection of natural heritage. Local government laws provide additional protection.

**5.2 - Legislation not listed in 5.1**

Historic Preservation Act / 1991 / national / cultural / none /
National Environmental Protection Act / 1984 / national / natural / none /
Marine Resources Act / 1997 / national / natural / none /
Local Government Act / 1980 / national / provides for local laws / none /
Coast Conservation Act / 1988 / national / natural / none /

**5.3 - Comment**

The RMI is also subject to the legislation of the United States for U.S. funded projects with the Marshall Islands, specifically the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. In matters regarding cultural resource management on the U.S. military base Kwajalein Atoll, U.S. NHPA applies. Local government has the power to make rules governing land and water within 5miles and can offer specific protection to sites. This is the case for Bikini Atoll.

**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**

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (ratified 2004)  
 Convention on Biological Diversity (ratified 1992)  
 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention) (ratified 1986)

**5.7 - Implementation of International Conventions into national policies**

There is adequate 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 but this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.

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

There are policies but there are some deficiencies in their implementation.

**5.10 - Comments**

The Marshall Islands in general has an adequate legislative framework for protection of cultural and natural heritage, with some deficiencies in capacity and resources to fully implement these laws.

**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?**

In general, cooperation exists between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but there are still deficiencies.

**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**

The Historic Preservation Office of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is funded by the Historic Preservation Fund from the National Park Service of the United States. Diversified funding sources to implement the program areas

would ensure consistency in the program areas as NPS funding is frequently suspended pending financial reporting.

**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**

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**7.3 - Comments**

The Marshall Islands has not submitted a previous periodic report to the World Heritage Centre. Given the inscription of Bikini Atoll only last year, it is expected that there will be a program of dedicated research on Bikini Atoll related to the World Heritage values.

**8. Financial Status and Human Resources**

**8.1 - Sources of funding**

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

The U.S. National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund requires the Historic Preservation Office to retain two professionals, an anthropologist and an archaeologist. The positions have been intermittently filled, resulting in inconsistent program implementation. The level of funding and human resources for heritage management is inadequate and will need to be supplemented to implement WH.

**9. Training**

**9.1 - Formal training / educational institutions / programs**

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**9.2 - Training needs**

Conservation	Low priority
Education	High priority
Promotion	Medium priority
Interpretation	Medium priority
Administration	Medium priority
Visitor management	Medium priority
Community outreach	Medium priority
Risk preparedness	Not applicable
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low priority
Other	

**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**

There are some for capacity development in the management of cultural heritage through the Historic Preservation Office-staffed by two professionals and 3 para-professionals. Cultural resource officers have been established in recent years to assist HPO with heritage conservation on the outer islands, yet this program is in an early stage. There is need for international support for capacity bui

**10. International Cooperation**

**10.1 - Cooperation with other States Parties**

No cooperation
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars

**10.2 - Twinned World Heritage properties with others**

No

**10.3 - Comments**

Effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention and site management of Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site will require significant international cooperation. We would welcome the chance for sustained bilateral or multilateral support from other States Parties including the possibility of twinning Bikini Atoll with another World Heritage site.

**11. Education, Information and Awareness Building**

**11.1. Media used for World Heritage sites promotion**

**11.1.1 - Publications**

Not applicable
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**11.1.2 - Films / TV**

Information
International

**11.1.3 - Media campaigns**

Not applicable
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**11.1.4 - Internet**

Information
International

**11.1.5 - Postage stamps, medals**

Not applicable
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**11.1.6 - World Heritage Day**

Not applicable
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**11.1.7 - Translation and diffusion of publications made available by the World Heritage Centre**

Not applicable
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**11.1.8 - Other (please specify in 11.1.8)**

Not applicable
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**11.1.9 - Comments**

At present the Marshall Islands is developing an approach to the presentation and promotion of Bikini Atoll using the internet. There is significant participation from international magazines and television documentaries.

**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 but nonetheless this is being done on an ad hoc basis.

**11.2.2 - Level of general awareness**

Private Sector	Poor
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Youth	Poor
Communities living in/around heritage sites	Not Applicable
Tourism industry	Poor
Decision makers and public officials	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Poor
General public	Poor

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

The State Party does not participate 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>	Never
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	Never
Other (comment below)	Never

**11.2.5 - Comments**

There would be great benefit from World Heritage Education in the Marshall Islands, however, there is little capacity to implement such a program.

**12. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

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

**12.1.1 - Identification of heritage**

<b>Identification of heritage</b>
Inventories are inadequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.
No inventories / lists / registers have been established for cultural and natural heritage.

**12.1.2 - National Inventories**

<b>National Inventories</b>
National : Process commenced
Regional / provincial / state : Not applicable
National : No process established
Regional / provincial / state : Not applicable

**12.1.3 - Tentative List**

<b>Tentative List</b>
No

**12.1.4 - Legal framework**

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

**12.1.5 - Implementation of international conventions within national policies**

<b>Implementation of international conventions within national policies</b>
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**12.1.6 - Communities**

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

**12.1.7 - Larger-scale planning**

<b>Larger-scale planning</b>
There are policies but there are some deficiencies in their implementation.

**12.1.8 - Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation**

<b>Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation</b>
In general, cooperation exists between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but there are still deficiencies.

**12.1.9 - Scientific and Technical Studies and Research**

<b>Scientific and Technical Studies and Research</b>
There is no research programme specifically addressing World Heritage.

**12.1.10 - Financial status**

<b>Financial status</b>
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**

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

**12.1.12 - Training**

<b>Training</b>
No national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.

**12.1.13 - International cooperation**

<b>International cooperation</b>
No cooperation
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars

**12.1.14 - Education, Information and awareness building**

<b>Education, Information and awareness building</b>
Private Sector : Poor
Youth : Poor
Communities living in/around heritage sites : Not Applicable

**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	<b>Inventories are inadequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.</b>	Formalize and centralize RMI National Register recommendations into a database from survey inventories and establish a formal list of cultural properties; Survey and inventory unsurveyed atolls for cultural and natural heritage.	Of the 29 atolls and 4 islands that make up the Republic of the Marshall Islands, 12 have not been surveyed for cultural heritage. This remains an objective of the HPO, pending funding from the U.S. Historic Preservation Fund.	Historic Preservation Office, Republic of the Marshall Islands	2011-2012	Yes, this action requires assistance in the form of human and financial resources.
6 Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation						
6.2	<b>There is limited capacity to adequately conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage and significant deficiencies remain.</b>	Build human capacity to preserve cultural and natural heritage by establishing long term governmental positions and training for nationals; build international capacity to share resources; secure funding for consistent programming.	The professional staff at Historic Preservation Office are contracted 2 year positions subject to lapses in funding and/or staff. Consistent funding and staff would ensure consistency in program implementation. RMI reliant on US NPS funding.	Historic Preservation Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency	2011-2012	Yes, building capacity through increased international assistance, diversity of funding sources, and consistent, long term staffing requires WHF assistance.
9 Training						
9.3	<b>No national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.</b>	Develop strategy to build capacity (human and financial) in the Historic Preservation Office and the Environmental Protection Agency	Professional positions are filled by government contracts and require education that can only be attained off island. Create training opportunities for nationals. Develop program for culture resource officers - facilitate training ops in capitol.	Ministry of Education, College of the Marshall Islands, University of the South Pacific, Historic Preservation Office, Environmental Protection Agency	2011-2013	Yes - we request assistance to build capacity through training and facilitate discussion about the continued use of contracted professionals. Additional staff and training is needed, which requires funding.

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

**13. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise**

**13.1 - Was the questionnaire easy to use and clear to understand?**

No

**13.2 - Please provide suggestions for improvement:**

Needed additional space to expound on some topics. In some instances none of the options in the multi-choice answers were directly applicable.

**13.3 - Please rate the level of support from the following entities for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire**

World Heritage Centre	Fair
UNESCO (other sectors)	Not applicable
UNESCO National Commission	Not applicable
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?**

Most 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**

**14. Thank you**