

1. Introduction

1.1 - State Party

Lao People's Democratic Republic

1.2 - Date of ratification of the World Heritage Convention

20/03/1987

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
World Heritage property managers/coordinators

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

- Thongsay Sayavongkhamdy
Ministry of Information and Culture
Director General
Department of Heritage

1.5 - Other key institutions responsible

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1.6 - Comments

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

2.1 - Cultural Heritage (Level and Status)

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

2.2 - Natural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process well-advanced
Regional / provincial / state	
Local	
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	

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

Inventories/lists/registers capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.

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

Inventories / lists / registers are frequently 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?

Inventories / lists / registers are frequently 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 Plain of Jars has been registered at national level and such registration has been used for tentative list as well as for preservation and presentation. The national inventory on natural heritage has just commenced and is on the way to be officially established.

3. Tentative List

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

Hin Nam No / 2012 /
The Plain of Jars / 2013 /
The Menhirs of Muang Hua Muang / 2015 /

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

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

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?

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

Yes

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3.7 - Comments

The tentative list will guide the preparation of nomination dossier for each property.

4. Nominations

4.1 - Property

Name	Date of submission	Status
Town of Luang Prabang	1987-11-04	inscribed
Town of Luang Prabang	1994-09-19	inscribed
Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape	2000-06-29	inscribed

4.2 - Involvement in recent nominations

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

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	Not applicable
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)	High benefit

4.4 - Comments

Enhanced the engagement of the government as a National Committee for the World Heritage Site, chaired by a Deputy Prime Minister, Standing Committee of the Lao Government, has been created for a successful implementation of the International Convention on World Heritage (1972) in Laos..

5. General Policy Development

5.1 - Legislation

Comment

Law on National Heritage, adopted by National Assembly on 9 November 2005 and promulgated by Decree of President of the Republic on 9 December 2005.

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5.2 - Legislation not listed in 5.1

Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur de Luang Prabang (PSMV) / 1998 / Provincial / Cultural /

Management Plan of Vat Phou and its associated ancient settlements within the cultural landscape of Champasak / 2000 / National / Cultural /

5.3 - Comment

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

RAMSAR

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 policies that are effectively implemented.

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

There are policies that are effectively implemented.

5.10 - Comments

Conservation of Luang Prabang Town is strongly integrated to the policy of sustainable development and they both interact with each other as the increase of economic benefits improves the conservation of cultural heritage and vice versa.

Distribution of profits from tourist growth has been directed to local population rather than to foreign investors.

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 effective cooperation between 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,

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protection and presentation of natural and cultural heritage?

All principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage are effectively cooperating with other government agencies.

6.3 - To what degree do different levels of government cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage?

Different levels of government cooperate effectively 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 excellent capacity to conserve, protect and present World Heritage properties.

6.5 - Comments

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

There are some research programmes that are conducted by Foreign Institutions which most of the time do not include domestic scholars.

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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 acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.

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

8.1.7. Funds from private sector and community are raised for minor restoration work on some religious buildings in Luang Prabang town. 8.1.8. Indian government and Italian government (through Lerici foundation) for Vat Phou. 8.5.1. B.A. Curriculum on Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management at the National University of just commenced in 2009; until then there was no training program in Laos

9. Training

9.1 - Formal training / educational institutions / programs

- National University of Laos / National / Cultural BA in Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management; started in 2009.

9.2 - Training needs

Conservation	High priority
Education	High priority
Promotion	High priority
Interpretation	High priority
Administration	High priority
Visitor management	High priority
Community outreach	High priority
Risk preparedness	High priority
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High priority
Other	High 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 a national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation but there are some deficiencies in implementation.

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9.4 - Comments

9.2.1. Conservation of architecture needs to be introduced to the existing curriculum in BA Architecture. Sciences of conservation and curatorial studies are non existing. 9.2.6 and 9.2.10. Training program for sustainable development of tourism should be introduced.

10. International Cooperation

10.1 - Cooperation with other States Parties

Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars
Other (please specify in 10.3)

10.2 - Twinned World Heritage properties with others

No

10.3 - Comments

10.1.3. Bi-lateral agreement with France and EU for Luang Prabang. Bi-lateral agreements with France, Italy and India for Vat Phou. 10.1.7 and 10.1.10. Active participation in ASEAN Network on Cultural Heritage (NEACH and NACH) under ASEAN; and in SEAMEO-SPAFA. 10.1.8. Hosted training seminar for SEA on "Risk Preparedness" at Vat Phou; jointly organised with The Getty Conservation Institute 2007

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.1. Media used for World Heritage sites promotion

11.1.1 - Publications

Information
Awareness Raising
National
Local

11.1.2 - Films / TV

Information
Awareness Raising
National
Local

11.1.3 - Media campaigns

Not applicable

11.1.4 - Internet

Information
International
National

11.1.5 - Postage stamps, medals

Awareness Raising
International
National

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11.1.6 - World Heritage Day

Information
Awareness Raising
National

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)

Local

11.1.9 - Comments

11.2. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.2.1 - Strategy to raise awareness among different stakeholders

There are strategies to raise awareness about conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage but there are some deficiencies in implementation.

11.2.2 - Level of general awareness

Private Sector	Fair
Youth	Fair
Communities living in/around heritage sites	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
Decision makers and public officials	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Good
General public	Good

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	Often
Youth Forums	Never
Skills-training courses for students	Occasionally
Organized school visits to World Heritage properties/cultural and natural sites	Occasionally
Activities linked to heritage within the framework of UNESCO Clubs/Associations	Occasionally
Other (comment below)	Regularly

11.2.5 - Comments

11.1.8.8. and 11.2.2.3. Information meeting for local communities organized at the Buddhist temple of each paroichy in Luang Prabang Town. Cinema Tuk-Tuk which combines performance of shadow puppet theatre and film viewing for public in villages at Vat Phou Site. 11.2.4.5. Training course on conservation jointly organized with ACCU/Nara Centre/Japan 11.2.4.7. Public Ceremonies and seminar to celebrate the 5th,10th and 15th anniversary of World Heritage inscription with intensive media coverage

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 capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.
Inventories / lists / registers are frequently used for the identification of potential World Heritage Properties.

12.1.2 - National Inventories

National Inventories
Regional / provincial / state : Process well-advanced
National : Process well-advanced

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

12.1.6 - Communities

Communities
Local communities / residents: Fair
Level of involvement / consultation of local landowners: Fair
Level of involvement / consultation of local industries: Fair
Local communities / residents: Fair
Indigenous peoples: Fair

12.1.7 - Larger-scale planning

Larger-scale planning
There are policies that are effectively implemented.

12.1.8 - Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation
Different levels of government cooperate effectively 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 acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.

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
There is a national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation but there are some deficiencies in implementation.

12.1.13 - International cooperation

International cooperation
Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars
Other (please specify in 10.3)

12.1.14 - Education, Information and awareness building

Education, Information and awareness building
Private Sector : Fair
Youth : Fair
Communities living in/around heritage sites : Good

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 capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.	Continue inventory work to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage	Survey, analysis, documentation, interpretation and preparation of nomination dossier for the sites that entered the tentative list.		2012-2018.	Fund from International Assistance is requested to send UNESCO missions to assist nomination dossier preparation and eventually reactive reporting.

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

Participation to Programs for the Young and World Heritage of UNESCO.

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	Good
UNESCO (other sectors)	Good
UNESCO National Commission	Fair
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	Good
Advisory Bodies	Good
State Party	Good
Site Managers	Fair

13.6 - Comments

14. Thank you