

1. Introduction

1.1 - State Party

Azerbaijan

1.2 - Date of ratification of the World Heritage Convention

16/12/1993

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
External experts

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

- Tarana Gambarova  
Cultural heritage Division of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Comment

1. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism; Address: AZ1000, U.Hajibeyov str 40, The House of Government, Baku/Azerbaijan Tel:+99412 493 43 98 Email: mct@mct.gov.az  
2. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Address: B.Aghayev str. 100 A, Baku/Azerbaijan Tel:+99412 492 73 69 www.eco.gov.az  
3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Address: AZ 1009, Baku, Shikhali Qurbanov str. 4 Tel: +994 (12) 596 90 00 Faks: +994 (12) 596 90 01 E-mail: katiblik@mfa.gov.az

1.5 - Other key institutions responsible

- Telman Kerimli  
Director  
"Azerberpa" Scientific Research and Project Institute  
Domain: Cultural
- Vagif Javadov  
Director  
Department for Biological Diversity and Development of Especially Protected Nature Areas  
Domain: Natural

1.6 - Comments

1.4 The Administration of State Historical Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" under the Cabinet of Ministers is also responsible for the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

2.1 - Cultural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state	Process completed or continually updated

Local	Process completed or continually updated
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	

2.2 - Natural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state	Process well-advanced
Local	Process well-advanced
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 the full 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?

Inventories / lists / registers are not actively 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 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)

3. Tentative List

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

Sheki, The Khans's Palace / 2015 /
The mausoleums of Nakhchevan / 2016 /
Zagatala Balakan Biosreservation / 2018 /

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

ICOMOS thematic studies
Meetings to harmonize Tentative Lists within your region

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

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional / provincial / state / government(s)	Fair
Local government(s)	Fair
Other government departments	No involvement
UNESCO National Commission	Good

Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Fair
Local communities / residents	Poor
Indigenous peoples	No involvement
Landowners	No involvement
Local industries	No involvement
Non Governmental Organization(s)	No involvement
Consultants / experts	Good
Site manager / coordinator(s)	Fair

**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

**3.7 - Comments**

**4. Nominations**

**4.1 - Property**

Name	Date of submission	Status
Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower	1998-10-15	inscribed
Fire worshippers Temple in Surakhani	2001-10-24	Incomplete
The Mausoleum of Yusif ibn Kuseyr, the Mausoleum of Momine-Khatun, "Gyulistan" Mausoleum, "Karabaglar" Mausoleum	2001-10-24	Incomplete
Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape	2003-01-27	deferred
Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape	2006-01-30	inscribed
Hirkan Forests of Azerbaijan	2004-12-29	deferred

**4.2 - Involvement in recent nominations**

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional / provincial / state government(s)	Fair
Local government(s)	Fair
Other government departments	Poor
UNESCO National Commission	Good
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	No involvement
Local communities / residents	No involvement
Indigenous peoples	No involvement
Landowners	No involvement
Local industries	No involvement
Non Governmental Organization(s)	No involvement
Consultants / experts	Good
Site manager / coordinator	Good

**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	Some benefit
Catalyst for wider community appreciation of heritage	Limited benefit
Improved presentation of sites	High benefit
Enhanced honour / prestige	High benefit
Increased funding	Some benefit
Additional tool for lobbying / political influence	Limited benefit
Stimulus for enhanced partnerships	Some benefit
Increased recognition for tourism and public use	High benefit
Stimulus for economic development in surrounding communities	Low benefit
Others (please provide details in 4.4)	Not applicable

**4.4 - Comments**

**5. General Policy Development**

**5.1 - Legislation**

**Comment**

The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (12.11.1995) The Law 'On Culture' (21.12.2012) - (Previous The Low on Culture was in 06.02.1998) The Law 'On Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments' (10.03.1998) The Law 'On Protection of the Environment' (08.06.1999) The Law 'On Ecological Safety' (08.06.1999) The Law 'On Architectural Activities' (15.05.1998) The Law "On Specially Protected Natural Territories and Objects' (24.03.2000)

**5.2 - Legislation not listed in 5.1**

**5.3 - Comment**

There are other laws /the Law on Museums (24.03.2000), the Law on Specially Protected Natural Territories and Objects (24.03.2000), Law on the basis of the Town Planning (11.06.1999)/ which contribute to the identification, conservation and protection of the cultural and natural heritage in our country.

**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**

The UNESCO Convention and Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (21.04.1993) The UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (16.12.1993) The

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (9.11.1999) The Convention on Biological Diversity(14.03.2000) The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage(26.11.2009)

**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 no specific policies to integrate heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning.

**5.10 - Comments**

Continuation of the question 5.6: The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (15.02.2010) The European Cultural Convention (25.10.1997) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (10.01.1995) Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (28.10.1999) Framework Convention on the Protection of Caspian Sea Marine Environment (18.05.2006) The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (18.01.2007)

**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 some cooperation between the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but improvements are possible.

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

In general, cooperation exists between other government agencies and the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but there are still deficiencies.

**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 adequate capacity within services 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 some research specifically addressing World Heritage.

**7.2 - Research projects**

- Reconstruction of archaeological landscape of Gobustan / 2012  
local  
cultural  
n/a  
The purpose of the project is the resolution of major basic problems associated with the understanding of the role and place of rock art in prehistoric societies.
- Development Strategy of Icherisheher / 2009-2010  
local  
cultural  
n/a  
The purpose of the project was defined as transforming Icherisheher (Walled City of Baku) into the world class tourism destination possessing the adequate infrastructure, cultural calendar, enjoying transparent public-private partnership and being regulated by special legislation.
- General Detailed Conservation Master Plan of the Historic Centre of Baku / 2008-2010  
regional  
cultural  
n/a  
Conservation Master Plan (CMP) which was developed in accordance with recommendation letter from WHC, dated July 04, 2007 by experienced Italian company DeMine O.N. presented to public in March 2009 (first draft of CMP was presented to WHC/ICOMOS joint mission in January, 2009). The document initially was prepared in English and Italian and has been translated into Azerbaijani. Conservation Master Plan has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan in November 2010. Approved Conservation Master Plan has been submitted in November 2010 to the World Heritage Center for review by the Advisory Bodies.
- The project on conservation of the "Mohammed Mosque" / 2010  
national  
cultural  
n/a  
"Erich Pummer Atelier" (Austria) – world leading company in the area of protection of buildings, their restoration and conservation. It had been invited for conservation of two key monuments in Icherisheher – the Mohammed Mosque (1078-1079 yrs.) and the Maiden Tower (VII-VI centuries B.C.). Conservation of "Mohammed Mosque" finalized in 2010.
- The project on museum conservation of the Maiden Tower / 2009-2013  
national  
cultural  
n/a  
Scientific researches for conservation works in the Maiden Tower started in 2009. After selecting restorative materials, method of preservation, and

related experiments, in March 2011 the conservation works began on the corresponding counterforce and the viewing platform, and from June 2012 persisted on the façade of the main district of the Tower. In January 2013 in connection with the start of works on the conservation of the monument inside was announced the closure of the tower for visitors. Conservation process was also accompanied by the scientific researches that contributed to the study of the history of the monument and identify its purpose. In October 2013, conservation works at the façade and the inside of the Maiden Tower successfully completed. Then works began on the creation of a new modern museum exhibition complying international standards. While touring the new museum exposition, created with the assistance of experienced professionals «DD Expo», visitors can learn the history of the Maiden Tower its internal structure, hypotheses about the purpose of its construction and purpose, its associated legends and other interesting facts.

- Project on development and installation of the new museum exhibition at the Shirvanshahs's Palace Complex. / 2012-2013  
national  
cultural  
n/a  
during the preparation of the museum exhibition at the Shirvanshahs' Palace complex, research was conducted and relevant information about the history and architectural features of the monument, palace life and rulers who lived there was collected and analyzed. The creation of the new exposition involved local and foreign experts, and this work was carried out in cooperation with the Austrian company "Artex", which specializes in designing museums around the world. Along with rich museum exhibits, the exhibition has widely used video projection, multimedia animation and audio and video presentations. In addition, at the Shirvanshahs' Palace Complex, visitors are able to use the services of a multimedia guide for the first time. With the help of the multimedia guide made on the basis of iPad Mini, one can listen to audio recordings on the themes of the exhibition in Azerbaijani, English, Russian, German and French and familiarize themselves with relevant photos and visuals. The design of the throne room of the palace and the exhibits and video presentations demonstrated there makes it possible to imagine the atmosphere and interior elements of the Shirvanshahs' era, and the 3D animated model of the throne of the Shirvanshahs will arise a special interest among visitors. The museum also presents such interesting topics as palace life, urban architecture, ethnography, music, calligraphy and archaeology.

7.3 - Comments

8. Financial Status and Human Resources

8.1 - Sources of funding

National government funds	Major source of sustained funding
Other levels of government (provincial, state, local)	Minor source of fixed term funding
International assistance from the World Heritage Fund	Not applicable

International multilateral funding (e.g. World Bank, IDB, European Union)	Minor source of sustained funding
International bilateral funding (e.g. AFD, GTZ, DGCS, GEF, etc.)	Not applicable
NGOs (international and / or national)	Minor source of sustained 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

Yes

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 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?

A range of human resources exist, but they are below optimum to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage.

8.6 - Comments

9. Training

9.1 - Formal training / educational institutions / programs

- Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts / national / cultural degree, diploma
- Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction / national / cultural degree, diploma
- Azerbaijan Tourism Institute / national / cultural degree, diploma
- Baku State University / national / natural degree, diploma
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9.2 - Training needs

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

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

**9.4 - Comments**

**10. International Cooperation**

**10.1 - Cooperation with other States Parties**

Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Financial support
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars

**10.2 - Twinned World Heritage properties with others**  
No

**10.3 - Comments**

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

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

**11.1.1 - Publications**

Information
Awareness Raising
Education
International
National
Regional
Local

**11.1.2 - Films / TV**

Information
Awareness Raising
International
National
Regional

**11.1.3 - Media campaigns**

Information
Awareness Raising
Education
International
National

**11.1.4 - Internet**

Information
Awareness Raising
Education

International
National
Regional
Local

**11.1.5 - Postage stamps, medals**

Information
International
National

**11.1.6 - World Heritage Day**

Information
Awareness Raising
Education
International
National
Regional
Local

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

Information
Awareness Raising

**11.1.8 - Other (please specify in 11.1.8)**

Information
Awareness Raising
Education
National
Local

**11.1.9 - Comments**

"The Shadows of Gobustan" ballet is put on stage following its full re-mastering, e.g. using modern technologies.

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

**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* but intends to do so.

**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**

Azerbaijan does not participate in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands Program, but intends to do so.

**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 / lists / registers capture the full 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**

<b>National Inventories</b>
National : Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state : Process completed or continually updated
National : Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state : Process well-advanced

**12.1.3 - Tentative List**

<b>Tentative List</b>
Yes

**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: Poor
Level of involvement / consultation of local landowners: No involvement
Level of involvement / consultation of local industries: No involvement
Local communities / residents: No involvement
Indigenous peoples: No involvement
Landowners: No involvement

**12.1.7 - Larger-scale planning**

<b>Larger-scale planning</b>
There are no specific policies to integrate heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning.

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

<b>Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation</b>
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**

<b>Scientific and Technical Studies and Research</b>
There is some research specifically addressing World Heritage.

**12.1.10 - Financial status**

<b>Financial status</b>
The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.

**12.1.11 - Human resources**

<b>Human resources</b>
A range of human resources exist, but they are below optimum to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage.

**12.1.12 - Training**

<b>Training</b>
Ad hoc basis for national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.

**12.1.13 - International cooperation**

<b>International cooperation</b>
Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Financial support
Sharing expertise for capacity building
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 : 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

9 Training						
		Action	Short description	Authority(ies) responsible	Timeframe	May this action require International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund?
9.3	<b>Ad hoc basis for national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.</b>	The State Program on the restoration and preservation of the historical and cultural monuments, improvement and development of the function of the historical and cultural preserves is adopted for this purpose.	As the State Program provides solutions to many problems in this area it could be a good basis for national strategy on capacity building in the field of heritage conservation.	Relevant state authorities, in particular The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan.	2014-2020 years	This action does not require International Assistance from the World Heritage Funds for now.

**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?**

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	Good
ICOMOS International	Good
IUCN International	Good
ICCROM	Good
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	Fair
Site Managers	Fair

**13.6 - Comments**

Thank you for your hard work !

**14. Thank you**