

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Korea, Republic of

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

736

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List



1995

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple	35.783 / 129.35	0	0	0	1995
Total (ha)			0		

Comment

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Service Plan map of Kyōngju, scale 1:25000	01/10/1984	
Service Plan map of Kyōngju	01/01/1994	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Ministry of Culture and Sport

Comment

Address 189, Cheongsu-ro.(920, Dunsan-Dong).Seo-gu. Daejeon. Republic of Korea Telephone 82-42-481-4738
Cultural Heritage Administration

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Hyunsil Kwon
Gyeongju City

Cultural Heritage Division

- Sang Min KWON
Gyeongju City Hall

Comment

Gyeongju-si City, Korea National Park Service, Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. 1001wonders.org : visit this site in [panophotographies - 360 x 180 degree images](#)
2. [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
3. [Korea National Tourism Organization](#)
4. [Seokguram \(Cultural Properties Administration\) - including virtual tour](#)

5. [Bulguksa \(Cultural Properties Administration\) - including virtual tour](#)

6. [Cultural Properties Administration](#)

Comment

Correction needed : Cultural Properties Administration to Cultural Heritage Administration

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance

The Committee decided to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv) as a masterpiece of Far Eastern Buddhist art. The complex that it forms with Pulguksa Temple is an outstanding example of the religious architecture of the region and of the material expression of Buddhist belief.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(i)(iv)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

(i) Seokguram Grotto (vi) Architecture and layout design of the Grotto and Bulguksa Temple

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

SOUV was not adopted at the time of inscription and the RSOUV is currently being reviewed by ICOMOS.

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

None.

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

None

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

		Name	Impact			Origin	
3.1		Buildings and Development					
3.1.1 Housing			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.1.2 Commercial development			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.1.4 Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities		⊕		🚩	🚧	🌱	
3.2		Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure		⊕			🚧		🌱
3.3		Services Infrastructures					
3.3.4 Localised utilities			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.4		Pollution					
3.4.2 Ground water pollution		⊕			🚧	🌱	
3.4.4 Air pollution			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.7		Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.1 Wind			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.7.2 Relative humidity			⊖	🚩	🚧	🌱	
3.7.3 Temperature			⊖		🚧	🌱	🌱
3.7.8 Micro-organisms			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.8		Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses		⊕		🚩	🚧	🌱	
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage		⊕		🚩	🚧	🌱	🌱
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community		⊕		🚩	🚧	🌱	🌱
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation		⊕	⊖	🚩	🚧		🌱
3.9		Other human activities					
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.10		Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1 Storms			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.11		Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.4 Avalanche/ landslide			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)			⊖		🚧	🌱	
3.12		Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species			⊖		🚧		🌱
3.13		Management and institutional factors					
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities		⊕		🚩		🌱	
3.13.3 Management activities		⊕		🚩	🚧	🌱	🌱
Legend	🚩 Current	🚧 Potential	⊖ Negative	⊕ Positive	🌱 Inside	🌱 Outside	

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.2 Relative humidity	restricted	on-going	significant	high capacity	static
3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	localised	on-going	minor	high capacity	decreasing

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

Relative humidity is important in protecting the grotto. Increased visitors can affect both the temple and the grotto and there are entries to the grotto are limited.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, but there is a need for one

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

All component sites are state-designated heritage and has a protection zone surrounding the heritage. Reviews are being conducted to implement the protection zone as the World Heritage buffer zone.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

The Grotto belongs to the Korean Buddhist Chogye Order and there are no plans for taking it into public ownership. The Grotto and its surroundings are protected by a number of statutory instruments. In December 1962 it was designated National Treasure No 24 under the provisions of the Cultural Property Preservation Law. The area of 129.4 ha surrounding the grotto is designated and managed as a Cultural Property Preservation Zone in accordance with Article 8 of

the Law. Any alteration to the current status requires authorization, in accordance with Article 20 of the same Law. It is a Cultural Property Preservation Zone as defined in Article 18 of the urban Planning Law. The site is designated as a traditional Buddhist temple with historical significance in accordance with Article 3 of the Traditional Buddhist Temple Preservation Law. It is designated and managed as a Natural Environment Preservation Zone under Article 13 of the Natural Environment Preservation Law, Article 23 of which imposes environmental restrictions within the zone to protect specific wildlife and plants.

Under Article 14 of the Natural Park Law it is also designated as a Natural Environment Preservation Zone, and Article 13 places restrictions on the construction of buildings or other facilities within the designated area.

It is an Environmental Effect Evaluation Zone under Article 5 of the Environmental Effect Evaluation Law; Article 2 of the enforcement regulations for this Law requires permission to be sought from the Ministry of Culture and Sports in respect of any proposed development within the designated zone. Similar conditions apply with respect to its designation as a Natural Environment Preservation zone under the Law of National Land Use Management (Article 13).

Comment

Could be substituted with new text of the SOUV that is currently under review by ICOMOS.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

None.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The Site is managed as Part of the Kyongju National Park. The supervising national agency is the Office of Cultural Properties of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. Other collaborating institutions are the Ministry of Construction (Taegu Regional Construction and Management Office), the Ministry of Home Affairs (Korea National Parks Authority), and the Ministry of Environment (Taegu Regional Office).

Comment

The site is directly managed by the Bulguksa Temple which reports to Gyeongju City for Cultural Heritage related issues. The Cultural Heritage Administration is responsible for the policy and budget of the heritage and Gyeongju City cooperates with Bulguksa Temple for the daily management and maintenance of the heritage. The entire mountain in which the temple and grotto are situated is also a National Park.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

A comprehensive management plan is to be established during the period of 2012-2013.

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property but it could be improved

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Good
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Fair
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Fair

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer

zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities **directly contribute** to some decisions relating to management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Indigenous peoples directly contribute to **some decisions** relating to management but their involvement could be improved

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but **little or no cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

None.

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

None.

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Governmental (National / Federal)	60%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	10%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	20%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	10%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	
Other grants	

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

Not applicable.

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

None.

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	70%
Part-time	30%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	60%
Seasonal	40%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	90%
Volunteer	10%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Fair
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Poor
Interpretation	Good
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Good
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Poor

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	High
Community outreach	High
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	High
Risk preparedness	High
Tourism	High
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

Technical management of cultural heritage can only be conducted by licensed Heritage Conservation Specialists according to the Act on the Technical Intervention to the Physical Condition of Cultural Heritage.

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects**4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

Numerous papers are published from various levels of schools.

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

Comprehensive In-depth Monitoring Research Project, 2007, Cultural Heritage Administration

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Average
Local landowners	Average
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Average

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Adequate
Site museum	Excellent
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Adequate

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

None

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Static
Three years ago	Static
Four years ago	Static
Five years ago	Decreasing

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected, and makes **some contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

Visitors has to be classified into two parts : visitors to cultural heritage and visitors to a Buddhist monument.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Average
Local / Municipal authorities	Average
Local communities	Average
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Excellent
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Excellent

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

None

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

Regular in-depth monitoring of the heritage are conducted by external experts.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.2	Relative humidity	(i) the Seokguram Grotto	The grotto is vulnerable to relative humidity and various methods are employed to control the atmosphere. Also visitors are not allowed to enter into the grotto to minimize the affects of tourism.	Constant monitoring of humidity, temperature and relevant factors.	Continuous.	Bulguksa Temple, Gyeongju City Cultural Heritage Administration	none.
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage						
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	(vi) the entire heritage compound and its natural setting	Limitations to visitor entry and close monitoring of status of heritage. Education to visitors to raise awareness of the impacts on the heritage	Monitoring of visitor numbers and on the heritage aspects conducted regularly to assess the situation.	Continuous	Cultural Heritage Administration Gyeongju City Bulguksa Temple	None.

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones					
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
4.1.1	There is a need for a buffer zone	Review on implementing the Cultural Heritage protection zone as a WH buffer zone being conducted.	2011-2012	Cultrual Heritage Administration	None
4.3 Management System / Management Plan					
4.3.10	There is little or no cooperation with industry regarding management	Comprehensive management plan to be established.	2012-2013	Gyeongju City Cultural Heritage Administration	None,

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

None.

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Very positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	No impact
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Positive

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

None

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
Staff from other World Heritage properties
External experts

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

None

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

UNESCO	Good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Good

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

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
Monitoring and reporting
Management effectiveness

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

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

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• Geographic Information Table

Reason for update:

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

None.