Update to the Report on the State of Conservation of the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (No. 1319)

February 2023
Cultural Heritage Administration
Republic of Korea

1. Executive summary of the report

The Republic of Korea, as State Party, would like to update the April 2022 State of Conservation Report reflecting new developments until February 2023. Therefore, this report does not include what remain unchanged from the previous version.

As of February 2023, the second lawsuit is underway between the national government (CHA) and the construction companies of the apartment buildings at the Jangneung Cluster (W6), after CHA losing the first lawsuit against the companies in question. In an effort to ensure sustainable conservation and promotion of the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, CHA already carried out seminars with experts home and abroad on the Jangneung Cluster apartment construction projects and is about to perform an Advisory Mission.

Regarding other conservation issues including Seooreung (W1; specifically, Changneung Royal Tomb) and Taereung (M3) Clusters, heritage impact assessments are now in progress the result of which will determine the future of the project. Issues regarding the retention of the Taereung Sports Facilities will be addressed through ICOMOS-recommended impact assessments and consultations among related authorities.

As explained in the previous State of Conservation report, the State Party will remain committed to improving the appreciation, conservation, and dissemination of the significance of the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty and cooperating closely with the World Heritage Centre and the ICOMOS.