

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

I.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1998

Organization submitting the report

- National Bureau for Cultural Property Conservation (NBCPC),
Central District
Pyongyang,
DPRK
- Korean Cultural Preservation Center (KCPC)

I.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- National inventories are identified jointly by the KCPC and NBCPC.
- Properties are classified into 'National Treasure' sites or 'Conservation sites' according to historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific or aesthetic value.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- 7 cultural sites submitted to WHC in 2000.

Nominations and the nomination process

- Koguryo Mural Tombs nominated in 2002
- The nomination process, * supported by the WH Centre, included data collection, aerial photographs (in 2001), and on-site identification in collaboration with the local government authorities and provincial people's committees.

I.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

Integration of heritage and planning

- Relevant laws include the: Land Law of the DPRK (1977); Protection of the Environment (1986); Protection of Cultural Property (1994); Protection of Scenic Spots (1995); and Cabinet Resolution No.24.
- These laws provide "the basis of clear understanding of the time-honoured history and homogeneity of the nation as well as its brilliant culture and beautiful nature."
- Laws are integrated into the urban, agricultural, and 'national land development master plan'.

Participation of local communities

- Local community involvement is reported to have significantly helped the work of the WH experts.

Tourism Development

- Camera shooting regulations are in place around the Koguryo Mural Tombs since 2002.
- A new NBCPC department in charge of visitors to scenic areas was created in April 2002.
- The 'National Cultural Heritage' quarterly magazine was launched by KCPC in 2002.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- "Lots of funds" for the presentation of cultural and natural properties. No figures supplied.

Professional

- KCPC has a current staff of about 100 archaeologists, conservation scientists & other experts.
- Course in restoration with regards to painting techniques started in August 2002.

New and improved services

- The NBCPC was established in February 2002 under the Cabinet, independently from the Ministry of Culture, to improve conservation effectiveness.
- Since 1998, wood conservation and rainwater infiltration studies have been carried out.
- Archaeological work undertaken at the Honam-ri Tomb group in April-May 2001.

Issues to be addressed

- Focus on recruiting specialist staff and training young multidisciplinary conservation experts.
- Provision of laboratory equipment.

I.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- * International Assistance from the WHF as follows:
1999 \$20,000 Training, Tentative Lists
\$5,000 Promotional, Translation of the Convention & Operational Guidelines
\$30,000 Preparatory, Tentative List (cultural)
2001 \$4,700 Preparatory, Tentative List (cultural)
- * International Assistance from UNESCO CLT/CH through extra-budgetary funds as follows:
2001-02 US\$101,000 Technical equipment: Koguryo Tombs/mural paintings (Republic of Korea)
2003-06 US\$500,000 Conservation equipment Koguryo Tombs/mural paintings (Republic of Korea)

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- Photo exhibition on Koguryo Mural Tombs held in the 'Korean Central History Museum' in August 2000.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- "More attention should be paid to the enhancement of public awareness with a view to involving [a] broader strata of people in the process of WH nomination."
- "Links and co-operation should be strengthened not only with the relevant international organizations but also with the individual State Parties to the Convention."
- Timeframe of proposed actions 2003-2008: (i) creation of a national association responsible for the WH Convention; (ii) Kaesong Historic Area WH nomination; (iii) additional legal provisions; (iv) establishment of a KCPC training centre; (v) production of multimedia programmes; (vi) increase staff and equipment.