

MONGOLIA

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1990

Organization submitting the report

- Ministry of Science, Technology, Education & Culture
Ministry of Nature And Environment;
Government Building III
Ulaanbaatar-11,
Mongolia

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- A national inventory of cultural properties was compiled under the Law on Protection of Cultural Properties (1994, revised 2000).
- The Ministry of Environment & Nature registered 48 protected natural properties by the year 2002, under four categories, in accordance with the Law of the Special Protected Areas.
- This is an ongoing process both for CH and NH.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- 9 sites revised in 1996 (* with UNESCO assistance), no subsequent revisions.
- Local authorities and populations were consulted.

Nominations and the nomination process

- 1999 Uvs Nuur Basin nomination in association with the Russian Federation (referred)
- 2001 Khovsgul Lake Tsaatan Shamanistic Landscape nomination (referred)
- 2002 2 nominations
(a) Orkhon Valley (deferred)
(b) Khovsgol Lake and nearby landscape (referred)
- In 2002, a 3-day meeting was held in the Orkhon Valley involving 460 stakeholders. The meeting resulted in a Management Plan and surveyed special protected areas. Recommendations were subsequently adopted by the Government as an official Resolution.
- Local people were involved with the relevant authorities to prepare the nomination dossiers. Special consultations are organized, starting with an increase in public awareness of the importance of CH & NH.
- The notion of 'heritage' was essentially non-existent in Mongolia until 1990. Several experts have been working on-site providing valuable information and suggestions.

1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

Integration of heritage and planning

- There are executive agencies for cultural heritage protection and environmental protection under respective Ministries.
- The 1998 National Program on Preservation & Protection of Immoveable Monuments, and the 1999 Tourism Development Master Plan ensure the implementation of principles of protection, conservation and public access.

Participation of local communities

- The Law on Special Protected Area Buffer Zones, 1997 states that "The Council may establish a Buffer Zone Fund to support the lives of local citizens".
- Local government strengthens the involvement of the community to assist in the protection of sites.

Tourism Development

- A national 'Tourism Development Master Plan' was adopted in 1999.
- The management plans for Special Protected Areas, place special provisions on local tourism management. In certain cases, the number of tourists are limited to avoid negative impacts.
- Information concerning Tentative List sites are included in the modules of the tourist guides training programme.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- A Law on Special Protected Areas specifies four sources of finance: (i) state & local budgets; (ii) tourism income; (iii) donations; and (iv) compensation for violations of the Law.
- A state budget allowance is indicated for both CH and NH.

Professional

- Policy offices in the Ministries of Science, Education & Culture and Environment & Nature have direct authority over provincial management bodies ensuring close integration of policy and management.
- A specific need for training in Museum Ethics has been identified.
- Some international training has been received through ACCU in Japan.

New and improved services

- National WH Committee established in 1997.
- National Programme on Special Protected Areas, 1998.
- Background legislation completed 1994-98.
- Tourism Master Plan adopted in 1999.

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

- There have been restoration projects and site improvements in the Orkhon Valley, Khoshoo Tsaidam, Kharakhorum, Erdene Zuu and Tuvkhun.

Issues to be addressed

- A general lack of expertise and funding persists.
- Other key issues include: (i) reconciling economic development with natural and cultural heritage conservation; (ii) providing a function to CH/NH sites for local populations; (iii) human capacity building in several areas; (iv) information dissemination (in local language) and public awareness; (v) inter-sectoral cooperation.
- The nomination process highlights the need for better systems for the protection and management of heritage properties.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- * International Assistance from the WHF as follows:
1996 \$15,000 Preparatory, Tentative List
2000 \$19,900 Technical, Lake Hovsgol nomination
2001 \$15,000 Preparatory, Orkhon Valley nomination
2002 \$7,000 Preparatory, Management plan for the Orkhon Valley
- * International Assistance from UNESCO CLT/CH through extra-budgetary funds as follows:
1995-98 US\$450,500 Preservation of Kharakorum City (Japan)

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- National stakeholder meetings for natural and cultural heritage have been organised.
- A National Programme on Environmental Education was developed in 1997.
- A plan exists to introduce the 'World Heritage in Young Hands' Programme.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- The government is planning to add 2 more sites to the Tentative List in the near future.
- Other proposed actions cover: (i) enhancement of the implementation of the Convention at the national level; (ii) strengthening of public awareness with strong participation of NGOs; (iii) continuation of the nomination process; and (iv) proposal to develop a 'Master Plan on Protection and Conservation Activities'.