

NEW ZEALAND

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1984

Organisation submitting the report

- Department of Conservation - Te Papa Atawhai (DoC)

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- “The Department of Conservation is currently reviewing its procedures for involving the community in the identification of sites for inclusion in New Zealand’s ‘National Inventory’ and ‘Tentative World Heritage List’. The current focus of this work is to establish processes to involve the indigenous Maori community.”
- The DoC’s responsibilities are described in its Maori name - Te Papa Atawhai; “Te Papa signifies a box or container (for the *taonga* or treasures) and Atawhai the act of caring, nurturing or preserving”.
- The DoC acknowledges & encourages “the contributing roles of other government and non-government agencies and of individuals in assisting New Zealand to be an effective State Party to the World Heritage Convention.”

The preparation of a Tentative List

- Based on attempts to develop inventories for wetlands of international significance, the finalisation of the inventory and WH Tentative List has been deferred until the appropriate “community consultation processes have been developed”.

Nominations and the nomination process

- 1986 Westland and Mount Cook; Fiordland National Parks (inscribed)
- 1990 Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (expanded and renamed to include Westland, Mount Cook, Fiordland and Mount Aspiring National Parks)
- 1990 Tongariro National Park (inscribed, extended in 1993)
- 1998 New Zealand’s sub-Antarctic Islands (inscribed)

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

Integration of heritage and planning

- It is noted that “management of WH sites and work in support of the Convention is undertaken within other duties and is not resourced separately from them.”
- “In 2001, the Department allocated the co-ordination of WH site management to its Southern Regional General Manager. This move was intended to increase the level of consistency of policy applied to these sites and to create a greater sense of their identity as WH properties.”
- The principal laws concerning New Zealand’s national heritage are the: (i) Conservation Act; (ii) National Parks Act; (iii) Reserves Act & Wildlife Act (administered by the Minister of Conservation); (iv) Historic Places Act (administered through the Historic Places Trust by the Minister for Culture & Heritage); and (v) the Resource Management Act (administered by the Minister for the Environment). * No dates provided.
- The DoC also has a number of other planning tools & management principles including a: (i) biodiversity strategy; (ii) visitor strategy; and (iii) historic heritage strategy.

Participation of local communities

- “Opportunities are being explored for increasing the involvement of Maori, as New Zealand’s indigenous community, in the co-operative management of the WH sites with which they have a particular ancestral association. This work has lead to the proposal for a WH Indigenous People’s Council of Experts. This proposal has not been accepted by the WH Committee but New Zealand continues to work with other interested countries to develop and apply its principles.”
- Community involvement is also promoted through: (i) local conservation boards; (ii) volunteer programmes; (iii) NGOs; and (iv) other agencies including IUCN-NZ; ICOMOS-NZ; UNESCO National Commission; NZ Archaeological Association; NZ Historic Places Trust; and the Royal NZ Forest & Bird Protection Society.

Tourism Development

- Visitor centres at Whakapapa (Tongariro NP) & Haast (Te Wahipounamu) provide visitors with “attractively-presented information on the outstanding significance of WH properties”.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- No figures supplied.
- The private sector sponsors a number of conservation projects, either directly or indirectly through the 'Threatened Species Trust' & 'National Parks & Conservation Foundation'.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows:
1998 \$4,000 Promotional Assistance for photographic exhibition on WH properties
2000 \$20,000 Training for 3rd meeting of regional network management of WH in Southeast Asia and Pacific

Professional

- The DoC "provides protection, conservation & presentation services from within its national and regional conservancy structure of 1,400 staff."
- Government & specialist institutions provide training opportunities for staff and members of community groups. The DoC also works with an external training organisation to provide general instruction for novice rangers.

New and improved services

- New Zealand is now "forming an inter-agency liaison committee to facilitate effective involvement of agencies beyond the State Party representative in the work of the Convention."

Issues to be addressed

- "The timeframe for developing a national inventory & indicative list will be dependent on the progress made in gaining the acceptance and participation by Maori and other key sectors of the community."

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- In October 2000, the DoC hosted & facilitated the UNESCO WH Managers' workshop for the Asia-Pacific region held in Tongariro National Park.
- The NZ Overseas Development Assistance (now NZAID) programme has funded a WH officer at the UNESCO Office for the Pacific in Apia.

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- The NZ National Commission for UNESCO has developed an internet-based addition to UNESCO's WH Education kit, as well as co-ordinating a Pacific addition which will involve input from Australia, Fiji, Samoa & the Solomon Islands.

- The Min. of Education has funded the 'LEARNZ' computer-based, interactive education programme for NZ schools, which included popular modules on Te Wahipounamu & Tongariro WH sites.
- The DoC maintains a website that provides a ready source of information on the WH Convention & New Zealand's WH sites. It also provides internet links to the WH Centre & other key websites in the region.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- New Zealand is planning further work in the following areas to: (i) identify greater opportunities for using the WH properties to convey key conservation messages & to promote the WH Convention; (ii) involve the community & key stakeholder groups in the identification of sites to be included on the Tentative List; (iii) explore ways of assisting neighbouring Pacific island countries to participate in the WH Convention; (iv) develop further, with interested states parties, means of allowing a greater involvement of indigenous peoples in the management of their traditional cultural heritage (including support to staff to gain experience in working with indigenous peoples in WH sites in other countries); and (v) stand for election in 2003 to the WH Committee.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and New Zealand was signed in April 2003. The MoU focuses on the implementation of the WH Convention in the Asia-Pacific region, with particular emphasis on the Pacific sub-region. To ensure the effective safeguarding and sustainable use of cultural & natural heritage, the Government of New Zealand and UNESCO will work co-operatively to promote the Global Strategy for a balanced & representative WH List; and improve the management of cultural and natural WH properties in the Asia-Pacific region. For this purpose the NZ Government will work in co-operation with WHC & UNESCO's Field Units in the Asia-Pacific region, and the Asia-Pacific Focal Point for WH Managers.