

# VANUATU

### 1.1 Introduction

**Year of ratification** 2002

**Organisation submitting the report**

- Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

### 1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

**The status of national inventories**

- Ongoing since 1990.
- Almost 3000 sites have been surveyed and registered.

**The preparation of a Tentative List**

- A preliminary Tentative List has been submitted. To prepare an updated Tentative List, preparatory assistance request has been submitted to the WHC.

**Nominations and the nomination process**

- No nominations have yet been prepared.

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

**Integration of heritage and planning**

- The Environmental and Conservation Act, 2002.
- Preservation of Sites and Artifacts Act, provides for protection of important cultural sites.

**Participation of local communities**

- Vanuatu Cultural Centre has a well-established system of over 100 community-based fieldworkers trained in cultural heritage protection and management.

**Tourism Development**

- No information provided.

**Financial measures and budget allowance**

- No information provided.

**Professional**

- Vanuatu Cultural Centre has experienced site surveyors and archaeologists.

**New and improved services**

- All land-development projects are subject to Environment Impact Assessment under the Environment and Conservation Act, 2002.

**Issues to be addressed**

- Funds to pursue conservation activities are very limited.
- There is a need for assistance from UNESCO to carry out sites surveying and community awareness programmes.
- A preparatory assistance request has been submitted to the WH Centre and is awaiting approval.

### 1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

**National and International Fund Raising**

- No information provided.
- \*International Assistance from WHF as follows:  
2003 \$16,200 Preparatory Assistance for development of site inventories and preparation of Tentative List

### 1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

**Information and awareness measures**

- Recently submitted preparatory assistance request to WH Centre proposes to conduct awareness for rural communities and policy-makers.

### 1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

**Conclusions and proposed actions**

- There is an urgent need of assistance from UNESCO in identification, preparation and conservation of sites.