

SWITZERLAND

I.01. Introduction

Year of adherence to the Convention: 1975

Organisation(s) or institution(s) responsible for preparation of report

- Swiss Federal Office of Culture, Section of Cultural Heritage and Historic Monuments
- Swiss Federal Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape, Section of Species management

I.02. Identification of Cultural and Natural Properties

Status of national inventories

- Inventories, established at national, regional and local levels, have been used as a basis for selecting World Heritage sites

I.03. The Tentative List

- The Tentative List was established in 2004 and registered by the World Heritage Centre in 2005 after it was resubmitted with some corrections
- Responsibility lies with the central government and experts from national and private institutions (including the Swiss Commission for UNESCO, the Swiss Federal Commission of historic monuments, as well as the Swiss Federal Commission for the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage, ICOMOS Switzerland), prepared in collaboration with regional and local authorities and site managers

I.04. Nomination of Cultural and Natural Properties for the World Heritage List

Nominations

- Nominations are the responsibility of the central, regional government, and site owners, prepared in collaboration with experts and site managers
- Motivations for nomination: conservation, raising awareness, honour/prestige, and respect of the World Heritage Convention
- Difficulties during nomination: development pressures, temporary lack of co-operation

Inscriptions

- 4 cultural sites: *Old City of Berne* (1983); *Convent of St Gall* (1983); *Benedictine Convent of St John at Müstair* (1983); *Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona* (2000)
- 2 natural sites: *Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn* (2001); *Monte San Giorgio* (2003)

Benefits of inscription

- Increased public awareness, honour/prestige, working in partnership (international co-operation)

I.05. General Policy and Legislation for the Protection, Conservation and Presentation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage

Specific legislations

- National, regional (canton) and local legislation on natural and cultural heritage
- Management plans are not required for cultural heritage
- Natural heritage sites: management plans already exist or are currently being drafted
- World Heritage sites are considered as "objects of national importance" and are duly protected at national and regional levels
- A revision of the funding system of the central and regional governments is envisaged

Other Conventions

Hague Convention (1954), Hague Protocol (1954), UNESCO Convention (1970), Granada Convention (1985), Valetta Convention (1992), Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 (1999), UNIDROIT Convention (1995) (signed but not yet ratified), Ramsar Convention (1971), CITES Convention (1973), Bonn Convention (1979), Bern Convention (1979), Florence Convention (2000) (signed but not yet ratified), Basel Convention (1989), Alpine Convention (1991), Convention on biological diversity (1992)

Depending on the nature of the convention, its application is a matter for the national or regional government

I.06. Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

Organisations, local communities participating in protection and conservation

- At the national level, the Swiss Federal Office of Culture is responsible for cultural heritage and the Swiss Federal Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape for natural heritage. They work in collaboration with consultative commissions such as the Federal Commissions for historic monuments and the Federal Commission for the protection of nature and landscape
- Private institutions provide scientific expertise in the field of conservation
- At the regional level, each of the 26 cantons has its own natural and cultural heritage protection services
- Heritage conservation is institutionally integrated
- The private sector, local communities and NGOs are also involved

I.07. Scientific, Technical Studies and Research

- Several research projects and publications on conservation of cultural heritage

I.08. Financial Resources

National resources and international financial assistance, fund raising

- Funding of World Heritage sites: national and local/regional authority budget allowances, fundraising, private sector and site owners
- The State Party has helped to establish associations to allocate funds for the restoration and the promotion of the Benedictine Convent of St. John at Müstair
- Financing of specific heritage conservation projects (Borobodur Temple – Indonesia; San Staë Church – Venice, etc.)
- No additional contributions to the World Heritage Fund have been made

I.09. Training

Professional and institutional training

- Training needs for the protection of World Heritage have not been identified. However, heritage training has been received. National educational institutions are considered important (universities, post-graduate programmes)

I.10. International Co-operation

- Cooperation for the protection of World Heritage on the territory of other State Parties: hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars, financial support and experts
- Measures to avoid damage to World Heritage on the territory of other State Parties: contributions to private organisations for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage
- The City of Berne is member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)

I.11. Information, Awareness Building and Education

Information and awareness raising on local, regional national or international level

- World Heritage sites are presented and promoted at international, national, regional and local levels through publications, films, postcards, media campaigns, Internet and postage stamps/medals
- Presentation and awareness are adequate
- Education of World Heritage protection: translation and promotion of the UNESCO WH Education Resource Kit "World Heritage in Young Hands"

I.12. Conclusions and Recommended Action

Conclusion and proposed actions

- Strengths: Existing inventories and good cooperation between the different relevant services have led to the establishment of a Tentative List taking into account the Global Strategy; Quality of conservation, funding and international cooperation is adequate; High-levelled scientific and professional formations linked to cultural and natural heritage; efficient collaboration between universities and research centres
- Weaknesses: Increasing tasks dedicated to World Heritage are making the work of State Party more complex; Decrease of public funds; Courses dedicated to cultural heritage, quality of architecture and public space are rarely incorporated into the national primary and secondary curriculum

Proposed actions:

- Strengthen the administrative resources for World Heritage issues
- Reinforcement of Switzerland's international role in the field of heritage
- Integration of heritage into primary and secondary curricula
- These activities do not require assistance from the World Heritage Fund