

1. Introduction

1.1 - State Party

Georgia

1.2 - Date of ratification of the World Heritage Convention

04/11/1992

1.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Reporting

Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage
UNESCO National Commission
World Heritage property managers/coordinators
Non Governmental Organizations
ICOMOS national / regional
External experts

1.4 - Primary government authorities responsible for the implementation of the Convention

- Rusudan Mirzikashvili
National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia
Head of UNESCO and International Relations Unit

1.5 - Other key institutions responsible

- Tamar Kvantaliani
Head of the International Relations and Project Management Unit
Agency for Protected Areas of Georgia
Domain: natural

1.6 - Comments

2. Inventories / lists / registers for cultural and natural heritage

2.1 - Cultural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state	Not applicable
Local	Not applicable
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	Not applicable

2.2 - Natural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state	Not applicable
Local	Not applicable
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	Not applicable

2.3 - Are inventories/lists/registers adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage in the State Party?

Inventories/lists/registers capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.

2.4 - Are inventories / lists / registers used to protect the identified cultural heritage?

Inventories / lists / registers are frequently used for the protection of cultural heritage.

2.5 - Are inventories / lists / registers used to protect the identified natural heritage?

Inventories / lists / registers are not actively used for the protection of natural heritage.

2.6 - Are inventories / lists / registers used for the identification of properties for the Tentative List?

Inventories / lists / registers are frequently used for the identification of potential World Heritage Properties.

2.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to inventories / lists / registers of cultural and natural heritage (questions 2.1 to 2.6)

The national register of monuments is regularly updated. The national register for Intangible Heritage has been established since 2011. This has greatly assisted the identification and promotion of the diversity of cultural heritage in the country.

3. Tentative List

3.1 - Potential future nominations (Property name / anticipated year of nomination)

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3.2 - Tools used for a preliminary assessment of the potential Outstanding Universal Value

None of the above

3.3 - Level of involvement in the preparation of the Tentative List

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional / provincial / state / government(s)	No involvement
Local government(s)	No involvement
Other government departments	No involvement
UNESCO National Commission	Good
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	No involvement
Local communities / residents	No involvement
Indigenous peoples	No involvement
Landowners	No involvement
Local industries	No involvement
Non Governmental Organization(s)	Good
Consultants / experts	Good
Site manager / coordinator(s)	No involvement

3.4 - Was the authority(ies) listed in question 1.4 responsible for the approval and submission of the Tentative List?

No

3.5 - If not, what authority(ies) is responsible for the approval and submission of the Tentative List?

Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia / www.mcs.gov.ge Irakli Metreveli / Head of the UNESCO Unit / 5, Sanapiro str. 0105 Tbilisi, Georgia / cultural /

3.6 - Do you intend to update your Tentative List within the next six years?

Yes

3.7 - Comments

The update of the Tentative List is being undertaken by the National Heritage Agency that has become the responsible authority since 2008. The work is based on the ICOMOS, IUCN guidelines and World Heritage Global Strategy. A regional consultation conference on this issue will be hosted by the National Heritage Agency of Georgia in September 2014 with participation of WHC, ICOMOS, IUCN, etc.

4. Nominations

4.1 - Property

Name	Date of submission	Status
Historical Monuments of Mtskheta	1993-10-28	inscribed
Upper Svaneti	1993-10-28	inscribed
Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery	1993-10-28	inscribed
Gelati Monastery	2013-01-29	Incomplete
Vardzia-Khertvisi Historical Area	1999-12-09	deferred
Tbilisi Historic District	1999-12-09	referred

Comment

Tbilisi Historic District - Deferred (Bureau of the WHCOM 25th extraordinary session, 2001, Helsinki)

4.2 - Involvement in recent nominations

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional / provincial / state government(s)	Poor
Local government(s)	Poor
Other government departments	Good
UNESCO National Commission	No involvement
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Poor
Local communities / residents	Poor
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Poor
Local industries	Poor
Non Governmental Organization(s)	Good
Consultants / experts	Good
Site manager / coordinator	Good

4.3 - Perceived benefits of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List

Strengthened protection of sites (legislative, regulatory, institutional and / or traditional)	Some benefit
Enhanced conservation practices	High benefit
Catalyst for wider community appreciation of heritage	High benefit
Improved presentation of sites	High benefit
Enhanced honour / prestige	High benefit
Increased funding	High benefit
Additional tool for lobbying / political influence	High benefit
Stimulus for enhanced partnerships	High benefit
Increased recognition for tourism and public use	Some benefit

Stimulus for economic development in surrounding communities	High benefit
Others (please provide details in 4.4)	Not applicable

4.4 - Comments

The degree of the involvement of local communities and governments in preparation of nominations and management of sites is still very low. However the situation is expected to improve following the adoption of the national law on World Heritage that inter alia aims to emphasize public participation in decision making and provide improved institutional mechanism for implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Georgia.

5. General Policy Development

5.1 - Legislation

Comment

The principal acts regulating World Heritage issue are the national laws On Cultural Heritage and On the System of Protected Territories. In 2013 the National Heritage Agency prepared the State Program for World Heritage that is being reviewed before adoption by the government. Assisted by the Italian Ministry of Culture through the EU funded TWINNING program the National Agency is working on the draft national law on World Heritage. The work is expected to be finalized by the end of 2014

5.2 - Legislation not listed in 5.1

Law on Georgia on Cultural Heritage / 2007 / national / cultural / http://www.culture.gov.ge/text-6.html
Law on Georgia on the System of Protected Territories / 1996 / national / natural / http://www.apa.gov.ge/uploads/other/0/232.pdf
Georgia's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan / 2005 / national / natural / http://moe.gov.ge/files/licenzia/bsap_ge.pdf

5.3 - Comment

The laws define the principles and procedures for listing, define responsibilities for conservation, maintenance and management, sources of funding as well as sanctions, the methodology for protection zoning as well as detailed regulations for each category of zone. The law on Cultural Heritage also provides the methodology for comprehensive inventory of historical areas, list of documentation for granting permissions, privatization and other relevant aspects.

5.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulations) adequate for the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and natural heritage?

The legal framework is adequate for the identification, conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

5.5 - Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulations) for the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and natural heritage be enforced?

Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened.

5.6 - Other International Conventions adhered

Comment

Georgia is adhered to the following conventions On Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage On Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions On the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols On Wetlands of International Importance On Biodiversity On the Protection of Architectural Heritage of Europe On the protection of Archaeological Heritage of Europe European Landscape Convention On the Role of Cultural Heritage for Society

5.7 - Implementation of International Conventions into national policies

There is limited coordination and integration.

5.8 - States Party's policies to give heritage a function in the life of communities

There are no specific policies to give heritage a function in the life of communities but this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.

5.9 - Integration of heritage into comprehensive / larger scale planning programmes

There are no specific policies, but nonetheless this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.

5.10 - Comments

The Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection is working on the Cultural Policy document. The draft is available for discussion with an aim to finalize the document in 2015. The National Heritage Agency implements annual cultural heritage preservation program approved by the Ministry. Concept of National Policy of Heritage Sector is being elaborated within the EU funded project by ICOMOS Georgia to be finalized in 2014.

6. Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

6.1 - To what degree do the principal agencies / institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of this heritage?

There is some cooperation between the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but improvements are possible.

6.2 - To what degree do other government agencies cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of natural and cultural heritage?

In general, cooperation exists between other government agencies and the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but there are still deficiencies.

6.3 - To what degree do different levels of government cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage?

In general, cooperation exists between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but there are still deficiencies.

6.4 - Are the services provided by the agencies / institutions adequate for the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage properties in your country?

There is adequate capacity within services to conserve, protect and present World Heritage properties.

6.5 - Comments

7. Scientific and Technical Studies and Research

7.1 - Is there a research programme or project specifically for the benefit of World Heritage properties?

There is some research specifically addressing World Heritage.

7.2 - Research projects

- Workshop on Cultural and Natural Heritage as one of the instruments for nature conservation in Caucasus / December 2011
National
both
The workshop was attended by 22 representatives of different state, educational and non governmental organizations. The results of the workshop were provided in the comprehensive report by international experts.
- Survey of professional opinion on World Heritage Tentative List of Georgia / 2011
National
both
The survey was undertaken by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia involving major professional and educational organizations and state institutions.
- Workshop on the Natural World Heritage / April 2014
National
Natural
The workshop was held by the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia with an aim to agree on the potential sites for the update of the national Tentative List.
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7.3 - Comments

There has been increasing awareness on the need for relevant studies in the world heritage field. With these aim there is emerging co-operation between the state agencies and NGOs. The regional conference planned in September 2014 in Mestia, Georgia will also contribute to the process. A research project is also being developed by ICOMOS Georgia with the support of the National Heritage Agency.

8. Financial Status and Human Resources

8.1 - Sources of funding

National government funds	Major source of sustained funding
Other levels of government (provincial, state, local)	Minor source of sustained funding
International assistance from the World Heritage Fund	Major source of fixed term funding

International multilateral funding (e.g. World Bank, IDB, European Union)	Major source of sustained funding
International bilateral funding (e.g. AFD, GTZ, DGCS, GEF, etc.)	Major source of fixed term funding
NGOs (international and / or national)	Minor source of fixed term funding
Private sector funds	Minor source of fixed term funding
Other (Please specify in 8.6)	Not applicable

8.2 - Involvement of State Party in the establishment of foundations or associations for raising funds and donation for the protection of World Heritage

No

8.3 - National policies for the allocation of site revenues for conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage

No

8.4 - Is the current budget sufficient to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively at the national level?

The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.

8.5 - Are available human resources adequate to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively at the national level?

A range of human resources exist, but they are below optimum to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage.

8.6 - Comments

There is a need for comprehensive fund-raising strategy as well as a strategy for human resources development. Fund raising as well as focused training of young professionals were realized on random basis. The National Agency plans to launch a scholarship for young generation for upgrading qualification abroad also to provide regular training locally with the help of international experts.

9. Training

9.1 - Formal training / educational institutions / programs

- Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts / national / cultural
The professional education (BA, MA, PHD) is provided in the field of Architecture, Art History, Restoration
- Iv. Javakishvili Tbilisi State University / National / both
the university provides professional education (BA, MA, PHD) in number of fields including Archaeology, Art History, Human Geography, etc.
- Georgia Technical University / national / both
The university provides professional education (BA, MA, PHD) in number of fields including Architecture, Urban Planning, Geology and Engineering
- Ilia State University / national / both
The University provides professional education (MA, BA, PHD) in number of field including Engineering, Art History, Archaeology, Earth Sciences, etc.

9.2 - Training needs

Conservation	High priority
Education	High priority
Promotion	Medium priority
Interpretation	High priority
Administration	High priority
Visitor management	Medium priority
Community outreach	Medium priority
Risk preparedness	High priority
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High priority
Other	High priority

9.3 - Does the State Party have a national training/ educational strategy to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation?

There is no national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation.

9.4 - Comments

Despite the efforts of the National Agency the large gap remains in communicating the World Heritage principles. In 2014 the National Agency is planning to publish a brochure on the principles of World Heritage. More regular training is provided for intangible heritage. Training on different heritage topics is also provided in scopes of the TWINNING program by Italian and Danish experts.

10. International Cooperation

10.1 - Cooperation with other States Parties

Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Financial support
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars
Distribution of material / information

10.2 - Twinned World Heritage properties with others

No

10.3 - Comments

Major conservation works on the World Heritage sites in Georgia (Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery) have been assisted by international, mostly Italian and British experts. These include recording, stone conservation, conservation of wall paintings, rehabilitation, management plans, etc.

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.1. Media used for World Heritage sites promotion

11.1.1 - Publications

Information
Awareness Raising
Education

International
National

11.1.2 - Films / TV

Information
Awareness Raising
Education
International
National

11.1.3 - Media campaigns

Information
Awareness Raising
National

11.1.4 - Internet

Information
Awareness Raising
National

11.1.5 - Postage stamps, medals

Not applicable

11.1.6 - World Heritage Day

Not applicable

11.1.7 - Translation and diffusion of publications made available by the World Heritage Centre

Information
Awareness Raising
Education
National

11.1.8 - Other (please specify in 11.1.8)

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11.1.9 - Comments

The World Heritage has become the subject of active public interest due to the Danger listing of two Georgian World Heritage Sites. The state actively uses media for spreading information on World Heritage and related issues. All relevant news are regularly uploaded on official websites and social networks. Bilingual information brochures and films on Georgia's World Heritage sites are also available.

11.2. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.2.1 - Strategy to raise awareness among different stakeholders

There are no strategies to raise awareness about conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage but nonetheless this is being done on an ad hoc basis.

11.2.2 - Level of general awareness

Private Sector	Poor
Youth	Poor
Communities living in/around heritage sites	Poor
Tourism industry	Fair

Decision makers and public officials	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Poor
General public	Poor

11.2.3 - Does the State Party participate in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands programme?

The State Party does not participate in UNESCO's *World Heritage in Young Hands programme*.

11.2.4 - Level of frequency of activities

Courses for teachers for the use of the <i>World Heritage in Young Hands Kit</i>	Once
Courses/activities for students within the school programmes	Once
Youth Forums	Occasionally
Skills-training courses for students	Occasionally
Organized school visits to World Heritage properties/cultural and natural sites	Regularly
Activities linked to heritage within the framework of UNESCO Clubs/Associations	Never
Other (comment below)	

11.2.5 - Comments

The ICOMOS Georgia has enhanced and published the UNESCO-ICCROM manual *Introducing Young People to the Protection of Heritage sites and Historic Cities* (2006) for school teachers in Georgia in 2014. There is a discussion with the Ministry of Education to formally include it in the curriculum lessons on cultural heritage that also includes information on World Heritage. The National Agency runs short course on heritage for school pupils that may be enhanced through application of the manual.

12. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

12.1. State Party's implementation of the World Heritage Convention

12.1.1 - Identification of heritage

Identification of heritage
Inventories capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.
Inventories / lists / registers are frequently used for the identification of potential World Heritage Properties.

12.1.2 - National Inventories

National Inventories
National : Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state : Not applicable
National : Process completed or continually updated
Regional / provincial / state : Not applicable

12.1.3 - Tentative List

Tentative List
Yes

12.1.4 - Legal framework

Legal framework
Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened.

12.1.5 - Implementation of international conventions within national policies

Implementation of international conventions within national policies

12.1.6 - Communities

Communities
Local communities / residents: No involvement
Level of involvement / consultation of local landowners: No involvement
Level of involvement / consultation of local industries: No involvement
Local communities / residents: Poor
Indigenous peoples: Not applicable
Landowners: Poor

12.1.7 - Larger-scale planning

Larger-scale planning
There are no specific policies, but nonetheless this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.

12.1.8 - Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation
In general, cooperation exists between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but there are still deficiencies.

12.1.9 - Scientific and Technical Studies and Research

Scientific and Technical Studies and Research
There is some research specifically addressing World Heritage.

12.1.10 - Financial status

Financial status
The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.

12.1.11 - Human resources

Human resources
A range of human resources exist, but they are below optimum to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage.

12.1.12 - Training

Training
No national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.

12.1.13 - International cooperation

International cooperation
Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Financial support
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars
Distribution of material / information

12.1.14 - Education, Information and awareness building

Education, Information and awareness building
Private Sector : Poor
Youth : Poor
Communities living in/around heritage sites : Poor

12.2. Actions for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* (identified from table 12.1).

12.2.1 - Please select the top issues (up to six)

Please refer to question 5.2

12.3. Priority Actions Assessment

12.3.2 - Priority actions assessment

2 Inventories / lists / registers for cultural and natural heritage						
		Action	Short description	Authority(ies) responsible	Timeframe	May this action require International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund?
2.3	Inventories capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.	enhancement of national cultural heritage inventory	Analysis of the national cultural heritage inventory to identify gaps and deficiencies and studies of the underrepresented categories with an aim to ensure representation of full diversity of heritage in the national inventory.	National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, local authorities, sector specific NGOs	2015-2018	Yes

12.3.3 - Additional actions for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

The strategy for building awareness at the grassroots level, adequate interpretation and presentation programs for World Heritage should be elaborated and implemented with an aim to ensure the participation of local communities in decision making.

13. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

13.1 - Was the questionnaire easy to use and clear to understand?

Yes

13.2 - Please provide suggestions for improvement:

13.3 - Please rate the level of support from the following entities for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire

World Heritage Centre	Good
UNESCO (other sectors)	Not applicable
UNESCO National Commission	Good
ICOMOS International	Good
IUCN International	Good
ICCROM	Good
ICOMOS national / regional	Fair
IUCN national / regional	Fair

13.4 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

All required information was accessible

13.5 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from the previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Good
Advisory Bodies	Good
State Party	Poor
Site Managers	Poor

13.6 - Comments

14. Thank you