

JAPAN

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1992

Organization submitting the report

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Agency for Cultural Affairs,
- Forestry Agency,
- Ministry of the Environment,
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure & Transport,

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- CH: The Central Government lists properties under the 'Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties' (1950). Local public bodies (prefectural, and municipal governments) have their own respective lists.
- NH: The Central Government registers national parks and quasi-national parks based on the 'Natural Parks Law', and protected forests (forest biosphere reserves), based on the Regulation for National Forest Management. Prefectural national parks are also registered under local ordinances.
- Monuments: the list was initially compiled in 1919 and has been revised twice a year recently (last updated in 2002).
- Architecture and other structures: the list was initially compiled in 1897 and has been revised twice a year since (last updated in 2002).

The preparation of a Tentative List

- A Tentative List of 14 cultural heritage properties was submitted in 1992, subsequently revised in 1995 & 2001.
- The list is only produced for cultural heritage.

Nominations and the nomination process

- The 'World Heritage Interdepartmental Conference' is a deliberation council of 5 government agencies (responsible for this report) held to discuss and coordinate matters relating to WH nominations.
- 1993 2 cultural nominations (inscribed)
(a) Buddhist Monuments in the Horyuji Area
(b) Himeji-jo
2 natural nominations (inscribed)
(a) Shirakami-Sanchi
(b) Yakushima
- 1994 Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji & Otsu Cities) (inscribed)
- 1995 Historic villages of Shirakawa-go & Gokayama

- 1996 2 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome
(b) Itsukushima Shinto Shrine
- 1998 Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (inscribed)
- 1999 Shrines and Temple of Nikko (inscribed)
- 2000 Gusuku Sites & related properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (inscribed)
- The nomination drafting process of the 'registration recommendation document' is described.

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

Integration of heritage and planning

- Various heritage conservation laws date back to the 'Dajo-kan', the government agency between the Meiji Restoration (1873), and the present cabinet system post-1950 (i.e. 'Old Shrine & Temple Preservation Law', 1897).
- NH: the Natural Conservation Law (1973), Natural Parks Law (1957, amended 2002), and the Forest Law (1951) are the main legal instruments.
- CH: a 'Cultural Promotion Master Plan', and 'Basic Principles regarding the promotion of Culture & the Arts' are being formulated.

Participation of local communities

- A 'WH Area Liaison Committee' has been established for each property in accordance with the WH Area Management Plan.
- Local people are members of the UNESCO National Commission.
- Residents near natural heritage areas are employed under the 'Green Worker Project' for monitoring & patrolling.
- A "scenic preservation agreement system" is proposed for private landowners around natural scenic spots.

Tourism Development

- Article 4 of the Law for the protection of Cultural Properties ensures public access to heritage sites.
- "Certificate ceremonies", "forest instructors", planned tours, TV & magazines introduce people to World Heritage.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- "General budgets" are prepared for natural and cultural heritage. No figures supplied.
- Government subsidies are provided to the Japan Committee of IUCN (NH); and the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (CH).
- 'Japan Fund for the Global Environment' financial support to NGOs.

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

Professional

- CH: about 330 staff at the HQs.
- NH: about 1,280 staff at the HQs, 1,200 forest rangers, and 200 national park rangers.
- CH: “special archaeological courses for engineers and officials in charge of buried cultural properties”.
- NH: research and training for park rangers and foresters. The ‘National Environment Training Institute’ has been established.

New and improved services

- NH: the government adopted the ‘New National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan’ at the CBD Council of Ministers in March 2002.
- NH: the ‘Basic Law on Forest & Forestry’ (2001) seeks the “sustainable fulfilment of the multifunctional role of forests”.
- CH: the Asia/Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU) was established in Nara in 1999.

Issues to be addressed

- The promotion of the “active opening to the public” and the rehabilitation of cultural properties.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- Established in 1989, the ‘Japan Trust Fund for the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage’ has contributed a total sum of US\$40.6 million for the protection of CH (list of projects provided).
- Through bilateral ‘Cultural Grant Aid’ Japan supplies equipment and materials for the preservation/repair and “peripheral improvement” of cultural heritage in developing countries (e. g. Vat Phou in Lao).
- In 2001, Japan approved \$334,800 under the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the capacity-building of human Resources and for the establishment of a monitoring system to enhance cultural WH sites conservation in Asia (proposed by the WH Centre). * This projects benefits the 2003 Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Asia-Pacific region.
- Japan co-funded the Nara conference on authenticity (1994), a meeting for the conservation & development of historic cities in Nara (1999), and a thematic meeting on cultural landscapes & sacred mountains in Wakayama (2001).
- NH: regional workshop co-funded for Natural World Heritage in East & South-East Asia (2000); bilateral assistance for oil spill mitigation in Galapagos Islands.
- * International Assistance from the WHF as follows:
1994 \$30,000 Technical, Conference on authenticity
1998 \$20,000 Training, Reg. meeting mixed sites
1999 \$25,700 Technical, Reg. meeting natural sites
2000 \$8,215 Training, Course on natural heritage
\$11,785 Technical, Training course natural sites

- 2001 \$20,000 Training, UNITAR workshop mixed sites
\$20,000 Training, Sacred mountains meeting

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- ‘World Heritage yearbook’ published annually by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations, of Japan, videotapes, websites, and postage stamps.
- Educational supplementary materials explaining World Heritage conservation regulations produced and distributed regularly.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- To broaden heritage protection for under-represented areas such as “the peripheries of cultural properties, cultural landscapes such as staged paddy fields and mountains closely related to the [lifestyle] of village people, and modern industrial products.”
- NH: 1,000 national ecological monitoring sites will be identified in 2003. Started in 1999, the systematic monitoring of forests will continue.
- NH: it is hoped that “the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention may play mutually supplementary roles in the realm of domestic policies.”
- Intention to “seek better methods for international co-operation” and WH protection overseas.