



**PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE
ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE
CONVENTION**

SECTION II

State of Conservation of specific World Heritage properties

**State Party: JAPAN
Property Name: Himeji-jo**

PERIODIC REPORTING FOR WELL PLANNED HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Background

The twenty-ninth General Conference of UNESCO, held in 1997, decided to activate Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention concerning the submission of periodic reports on the state of implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Section I) and the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties (Section II). The national authorities are invited to report on Section I, while Section II shall be prepared for each property inscribed on the World Heritage list by the person(s) directly in charge of the property's management.

The periodic reports prepared by the States Parties will serve a three-fold purpose:

- ❖ to assess the current state of all World Heritage related issues in a State Party,
- ❖ to help focus the Committee's as well as the State Party's future activities and funds,
- ❖ to strengthen sub-regional and regional co-operation between States Parties.

The Periodic Reporting Questionnaire

In 1998, at its twenty-second session, the World Heritage Committee approved *Explanatory Notes*, designed to be read in conjunction with the *Periodic Reporting Format*, in order to outline the information expected to flow from the periodic reporting exercise. To facilitate the preparation of the report, a *Questionnaire* was developed that the States Parties are encouraged to use. It closely follows the subjects referred to in the *Explanatory Notes*, but in contrast to the latter splits the subjects up into short questions to be answered in a few sentences or paragraphs. A second type of question requires the indication of YES or NO by circling or underlining the appropriate answer. All questions are clearly identified with a little number in the right hand column of the *Questionnaire*. To make the reporting results meaningful every one of these questions has to be answered. If no answer is possible, the reasons should be given. If the available space is not sufficient for the answer, the response should be continued on a separate sheet of paper, clearly indicating the number of the question the text refers to (e.g. 006).

Benefits for the States Parties

The *Questionnaire* was developed in such a way as to allow to extract and compile or compare relevant information from different States Parties or properties, facilitating the process of preparing the regional synthesis report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee. The YES / NO questions make it possible to evaluate the reports quantitatively, but only the details that should be supplied in the related 'open question' make the answers meaningful and can be the basis for concerted actions to preserve a State Party's most valuable heritage for its transmission to future generations.

The information collected in this way will help the States Parties to assess their own strengths and weaknesses concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, putting them in a position to (re)define policies and to request assistance in order to finance projects and / or training. On the other hand it allows the World Heritage Committee to collect information needed to devise *Regional Action Plans*, give well-informed advice to States Parties and to focus funds as well as attention on the region(s), States Parties and / or properties that need the collective support of the international community.

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

The preparation process of the regional periodic report will furthermore enhance regional co-operation through information meetings as well as through the better availability of regularly up-dated information on activities as well as contact addresses etc. The identification of the State Party's strengths makes it possible to exchange experiences and look for solutions to problems (e.g. of site conservation) within the region.

Conclusion

Periodic Reporting is a participatory exercise, aiming to collect information on World Heritage related issues on a national as well as on the property level. The individual State Party reports will be collated into a regional synthesis report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee. This information will enhance cooperation between the Committee and the States Parties and allow to focus funds and activities more efficiently, allowing the States Parties to protect their most valuable heritage more effectively for transmission to future generations.

PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

(FORMAT)

SECTION II: STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SPECIFIC WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

II.1 Introduction

- a. State Party
- b. Name of World Heritage property
- c. Geographical coordinates to the nearest second
- d. Date of inscription on the World Heritage List
- e. Organization(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of the report
- f. Date of report
- g. Signature on behalf of State Party

II.2. Statement of significance

II.3. Statement of authenticity/integrity

II.4. Management

II.5. Factors affecting the property

II.6. Monitoring

II.7. Conclusions and recommended action

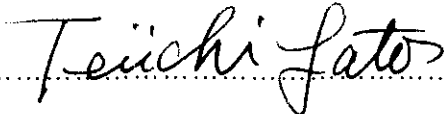
- a. Main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above)
- b. Main conclusions regarding the management and factors affecting the property (see Items II.4 and II.5. above)
- c. Proposed future action/actions
- d. Responsible implementing agency/agencies
- e. Timeframe for implementation
- f. Needs for international assistance.

II.8. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section II

II.9. Documentation attached

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

II.1. Introduction

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| a. | Country (and State Party if different): Japan | 001 |
| b. | Name of World Heritage property: Himeji-jo | 002 |
| c. | <p>In order to locate the property precisely, please attach a topographic map showing scale, orientation, projection, datum, site name, date and graticule. The map should be an original print and not be trimmed. The site boundaries should be shown on the map. In addition they can be submitted in a detailed description, indicating topographic and other legally defined national, regional, or international boundaries followed by the site boundaries.</p> <p>The State Parties are encouraged to submit the geographic information in digital form so that it can be integrated into a Geographic Information System (GIS).</p> <p>On this questionnaire indicate the geographical co-ordinates to the nearest second (in the case of large sites, towns, areas etc., give at least 3 sets of geographical co-ordinates):</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Centre point: Latitude: 34° 50' 07" N Longitude: 134° 41' 50" E</p> <p>North-west corner:</p> <p>South-east corner:</p> | 003 |
| d. | <p>Give the date of inscription on the World Heritage List and subsequent extension (if applicable):</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">11th December 1993</p> | 004 |
| e. | <p>Organisation(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Organisation(s) / entity(ies): Hyogo Prefecture Board of Education (Cultural Asset Protection Office)</p> <p>Person(s) responsible: TSUJII Fumio (head of the Cultural Asset Protection Office)</p> <p>Contact person: MURAKAMI Yasumichi (Chief of Cultural Asset Protection Office)</p> <p>Address: 5-10-1 Shimoyamate-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture</p> <p>City and post code: 650-8567</p> <p>Telephone: +81 78 362 3783</p> <p>Fax: +81 78 362 3927</p> <p>E-mail: yamauchi_murakami@pref.hyogo.jp</p> | 005 |
| f. | Date of preparation of the report: | 006 |
| g. | <p>Signature on behalf of the State Party</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Signature: </p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Name: Teichi SATO</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Function: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegation to UNESCO</p> | 007 |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

II.2. Statement of significance

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|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>At the time of inscribing a property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee indicates its outstanding universal value(s), or World Heritage value(s), by deciding on the criteria for which the property deserved to be included on the World Heritage List. Circle the criteria retained for the inscription:</p> <p>Cultural criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> i - ii - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> iii - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> iv - v - vi</p> <p>Natural criteria: i - ii - iii - iv</p> <p>Were new criteria added by re-nominating and/or extending the property after the original inscription? NO</p> <p>If YES, please explain:</p> | <p>008</p> <p>009</p> <p>010</p> |
| <p>Please quote observations concerning the property made by the Advisory Body(ies) during the evaluation of the nomination:</p> <p>Qualities</p> <p>Himeji-jo is an outstanding wooden structure of great complexity, strength, and mastery of the constructional use of wood. It preserves the interior and exterior characteristics of a 17th century Japanese castle perfectly, and its setting is superb. The conservation work carried out since 1934 has been of the highest quality, and protection of the property and its immediate setting is ensured by a series of overlapping national and local ordinances and plans.</p> <p>Comparative analysis</p> <p>Many castle were built in Japan in the early years of the Shogun period. Most of these have subsequently been demolished and others were destroyed during World War II. Of the handful that survive, Himeji-jo is the most complete and unaltered, largely thanks to the efforts of army officers after the Meiji restoration. The castles of the Ryukyu Kingdom, in Okinawa Prefecture, which figure on the Japanese Tentative List, are earlier in date, constructed in stone, and represent a different culture. (The property, “<i>Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryuku</i>” is now inscribed on the World Heritage List).</p> <p>Additional comments</p> <p>Himeji-jo was visited by ICOMOS expert missions in September 1992 and April and August 1993.</p> | <p>011</p> |
| <p>Quote the decisions and observations / recommendations, if appropriate, made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription and extension (if applicable):</p> <p>None</p> | <p>012</p> |
| <p>Identify the actions taken as follow-up to these observations and/or decisions:</p> <p>None</p> | <p>013</p> |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

II.2. continued

Please propose a statement of significance by providing a description of the World Heritage value(s) for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. This description should reflect the criterion (criteria) on the basis of which the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List and it should also detail what the property represents, what makes it outstanding, what the specific values are that distinguish the property as well as what its relationship with its setting is, etc.:

014

The beginning of the seventeenth century, when Himeji-jo was built, was the peak of castle construction in Japan. Examples of all of the essential components of Japanese castle architecture exist at Himeji-jo and all are well conserved; the major elements include many types of fortified buildings, walls and gates as well as stone ramparts and moats. This castle may be called the best example of this type of structure, unique to Japan, which shows highly developed defensive planning principles and ingenious devices for protection. In this sense, the property meets criterion (iv).

The beginning of the seventeenth century was a time of feudalism in Japan when Shoguns and feudal lords ruled the country. The feudal lords competed to construct large-scale castles in order to demonstrate their power. Among these castles, Himeji-jo is the greatest remaining example of castle architecture, and its magnificent design well reflects the characteristics of the period when it was built. Himeji-jo is thus an important property in the sense that it can enhance the understanding of the Japanese culture of that time. In this respect it meets criterion (iii).

The design of the buildings of Himeji-jo is very unique. On the one hand, the exterior of the individual buildings and the surrounding walls is covered with thick plaster and coated with a white lime finish, giving an impression of unity and simplicity in terms of material and color. On the other hand, the overall composition of structures is made very complex by the positioning of building volumes, further articulated by multiple layers of roof projections, giving an impression which is quite far from simple. As the nickname of the castle, Shirasagi-jo (white heron castle), implies, the degree of aesthetic perfection in Japan is at its highest among its wooden structures such as Himeji-jo, and wooden architecture of this quality is very rare in the world. In this sense, the property meets criterion (i).

Castles have been built all over the world, and many of these buildings remain today, but the majority of castle structures were constructed of either stone or brick. Of the castles built in Japan from the sixteenth to the seventeenth centuries that still remain today, the major structures, with the exception of the moats and stone walls, are all made of wood and their outer earthen walls are plastered. For this reason, the architectural style and design of these castles are very important because of the rarity of this type of castle construction.

Compared with the other remaining castles in Japan, the design of the entire group of buildings at Himeji-jo – particularly the composition of the buildings in the donjon complex and the design of the white plastered walls – is generally considered superior to that of other castles. These buildings, showing the typical elements of castle construction including the donjon, keeps, towers, gates and plastered earthen walls, are the best preserved and are appropriate examples to represent the cultural heritage of Japan.

For the extension of a property or the inclusion of additional criteria a re-submission of the property may be considered. This might be regarded as necessary in order to recognize

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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| | <p>cultural values of a natural World Heritage property, or vice-versa, become desirable following the substantive revision of the criteria by the World Heritage Committee or due to better identification or knowledge of specific outstanding universal values of the property. Should a re-nomination of the property be considered? NO</p> | |
| | If YES, please explain: | 016 |
| | Are the borders of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone (still) adequate to ensure the protection and conservation of the property's World Heritage values: YES | 017 |
| | If NO, please explain why not, and indicate what changes should be made to the boundaries of the property and / or its buffer zone (please indicate these changes also on a map to be attached to this report): | 018 |

II.2. continued

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| | <p>Is the State Party actively considering a revision of the property boundaries or the buffer zone? NO</p> | 019 |
| | If YES, indicate what is being done to that end: | 020 |

II.3. Statement of authenticity / integrity

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| | <p>Have the World Heritage values identified above been maintained since the property's inscription? YES</p> | 021 |
| | If NO, please describe the changes and name the causes: | 022 |
| | <p>What was the evaluation of the authenticity / integrity of the property at the time of inscription? (Please quote from the ICOMOS / IUCN evaluation):</p> <p>The conservation work between 1934 and 1964 was carried out using the advanced techniques developed in Japan for large wooden structures and in conformity with established principles of authenticity in design, materials, techniques, and environment. The only modern intrusion was the insertion of the reinforced concrete foundation raft, which ICOMOS considers to have been fully justified on the grounds that the process of displacement due to the weakness of the subsoil would inevitably lead to catastrophic collapse; it was also seen as a necessary protection in a region of high seismic activity.</p> | 023 |

II.3. continued

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| | <p>Have there been changes in the authenticity / integrity since inscription? NO</p> | 024 |
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| If YES, please describe the changes to the authenticity / integrity and name the main causes? | 025 |
| Are there (further) changes foreseeable to the authenticity / integrity of the property in the near future? NO | 026 |
| If YES, please explain and indicate how these changes might affect the World Heritage values of the property: | 027 |

II.4. Management

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| <p>How could the arrangements for the protection and the management of the property best be defined (more than one indication possible)?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Legal (X) Contractual () Traditional ()</p> | 028 |
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II.4. continued

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| <p>Please describe and assess the implementation and effectiveness of these arrangements for the preservation of the values described under item II.2 at the national, provincial and/or municipal level:</p> <p>National Government: All the cultural assets included in the property which are located in Himeji City are protected under Articles 43 and 80 of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, which prohibit alteration to the existing conditions without permission from the national government.</p> <p>Hyogo Prefecture and Himeji City: Under Article 103 of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, Himeji City submit documents through the Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs. The Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education adds its opinions to those documents when it forwards them the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs.</p> <p>The buffer zone is also protected through designations of Urban Landscape Formation Areas under the Himeji City Urban Landscape Ordinance. The value of the property is therefore sufficiently conserved through requirement of advance notification of any development activity, based upon these legal instruments.</p> <p>In addition, a certain group of activities are controlled by the City Planning Law through requirement of prior permission from the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture.</p> | 029 |
| <p>In general terms, can this legislative, contractual and/or traditional protection be considered sufficient? YES</p> | 030 |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| <p>Please explain:</p> <p>Legal regulations for conservation of the property and maintenance of landscapes in the buffer zones have been complied with since inscription; therefore, protection can be considered sufficient.</p> | 031 |
| <p>Provide a list and summaries of laws and regulations concerning cultural and natural properties protection and management (including extracts of relevant articles from the Constitution, Criminal Law, Law/Regulations on Land-use, Environment Law and Forestry Law, amongst others). Please also attach any documentation available concerning these points:</p> <p>The Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. A comprehensive law regarding the protection and utilisation of cultural properties.</p> | 032 |

II.4. continued

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| <p>Describe the administrative and management arrangements that are in place for the property concerned, making special mention of the institutions and organisations that have management authority over the property as well as of the arrangements that are in place for the coordination of their actions:</p> <p>Himeji City, which is appointed as the custodial organisation under Article 32-2 of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, is responsible for and has been implementing the management of the property on behalf of the several property owners.</p> <p>For management purposes, Himeji City has prepared a management plan for preservation and management of the Special Historic Site, Himeji-jo, in consultation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Hyogo Prefecture and property owners.</p> | 033 |
| <p>Please indicate under which level of authority the property is managed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Property () Regional (X) National () Other (please describe):</p> | 034 |
| <p>Please provide the full name, address and phone/fax/e-mail of the entity(ies) directly responsible for the management (conservation, preservation, visitor management) of the property:</p> <p>Name: Administrative Office of Himeji-jo Address: 68 Hommachi, Himeji City Telephone: +81 792 85 1146 Fax: +81 792 22 6050 e-mail: kyo-sirokanr@city.himeji.hyogo.jp</p> | 035 |
| <p>Is it necessary to revise the administrative and management arrangements for the property? NO</p> | 036 |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| If YES, explain why this is the case: | 037 |
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II.4. continued

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| Is there a management plan for the property? | YES | 038 |
| <p>If YES, please summarise, indicating if the plan is being implemented and since when:</p> <p>(1) The Himeji City Ordinance for the Management of Himeji-jo This ordinance gives provisions for the management of disaster prevention facilities and other management facilities installed for the cultural assets included in the property or in the Special Historic Site, Himeji-jo, trees and other conservation facilities including boundaries. This law took effect in July 1964.</p> <p>(2) The Conservation Management Plan for the Himeji-jo Special Historic Site The purpose of the policies is to promote orderly management of the area surrounding the Special Historic Site and by so doing enhance the value of the Himeji-jo site from the viewpoint of cultural property conservation in harmony with orderly development in the urban area of Himeji City. Management standards are set up on a regional basis. (Established in June 1969.)</p> <p>(3) Basic Management Plan for the Himeji-jo Historic Site This plan was established in November 1986 to provide the middle- and long-term visions for appropriate land use in the Special Historic Site, Himeji-jo, in consideration of the following factors as criteria for zoning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of planned development 2. Continuity to the castle or the city centre 3. Type of users 4. Traffic plan 5. Consideration for landscape | 039 | |
| <p>Please report on legal and administrative actions that are foreseen for the future, to preserve the values described under item II.2 (e.g. passing of legislation, adjusting administrative and management arrangements, implementing or drawing up of a (new) management plan, etc.):</p> <p>Continuation and enhancement of preservation of the property through the implementation, and review if necessary, of the already established management plans.</p> | 040 | |

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| <p>Please provide detailed information, particularly in cases where changes have occurred since the inscription of the property, on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conservation</u> Make reference to all major interventions at the property and describe its present state | 041 |
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

of conservation:

a. Repair of Himeji-jo

Repair of roofing tiles and plaster walls, etc. have been continually carried out.

- i. Kanshoteshu
- ii. I, RO, HA, NI, YO- no-Watariyagura
- iii. HO,WO-no-Yagura
- iv. Nishi-Kotenshu
- v. Ro-no-mon Seinampo-dobei
- vi. Nakaniwa
- vii. Mizu-no-Ichi-mon Hoppo-tsuijibei
- viii. HA, HE-no-mon
- ix. HA-no-mon Seiho-dobei
- x. Mizu-no-Ichi-mon, Mizu-no-Ni-mon
- xi. Kesho-Yagura

Implementing Organization: Himeji City

b. Installation of disaster prevention facilities at Himeji-jo

From 1997 to 2002 (planned)

Renewal of fire alarms, fire hydrants, security facilities, ITV facilities and construction of a disaster prevention centre

Cost: 969,419,000 JPY

Implementing Organization: Himeji City

c. Dredging of moats of Himeji-jo

From 1993 to 1998

Cleaning of moats (inner moat and outer moat)

- i. Enlargement of bypassing pipes
- ii. Addition of aqueducts
- iii. Dredging

Cost: 1,209,000 JPY

Implementing Organization: Hyogo Prefecture

d. Repair of stonewall of Himeji-jo

From 1993 to 1998

- i. Kitasekakushi-mon Nishigawa Ishigaki
- ii. Kyutyo-mon
- iii. Kisai-mon
- iv. Kuruma-mon Ato Kita Kyutyo-mon
- v. Uchikyoguchi-mon

Cost: 330,402,000 JPY

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| <p>Implementing Organization: Himeji City</p> <p>e. Archaeological investigation</p> <p>Investigation of the archaeological remains in the surrounding area</p> <p>i. Himeji Park (site of a residence of a <i>karo</i>, a highest-ranking official)</p> <p>ii. Himeji Park (near the city planning road, Jonan Line)</p> <p>Cost: 93,113,000 JPY</p> <p>Implementing Organization: Himeji City</p> <p>f. Installation of conservation facilities</p> <p>From 1998 to 2001</p> <p>Acquisition of the public ownership of Himeji Park and construction of a facility for evacuations of D zone</p> <p>i. Himeji Park (site of a residence of a <i>karo</i>, a highest-ranking official)</p> <p>ii. Himeji City development building of D zone</p> <p>Cost: 22,307,643,000 JPY</p> <p>Implementing Organization: Himeji City</p> <p>g. Installation of explanatory boards</p> <p>Installation of direction signs in the Himeji-jo compound.</p> <p>Cost: 23,273,000 JPY</p> <p>Implementing Organization: Himeji City</p> <p>h. Environmental improvement</p> <p>From 1994 to 1997</p> <p>Installation of green spaces in the property area, etc.</p> <p>i. Construction of a green space in an ex-health centre site</p> <p>ii. Nozatomon Site</p> <p>Cost: 74,370,000 JPY</p> <p>Implementing Organization: Himeji City</p> | |
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II.4. continued

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ownership</u> Make reference to all major changes in ownership of the property and describe the present state of ownership: <p>There is no change except for the change in the ownership of a part of the southwest part of the property (D zone) from private ownership to the ownership of Himeji City.</p> | 042 |
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| Please, give a detailed description of the staffing of the site: | 043 |
| Administration | |
| Himeji City Board of Education (Culture Section): 13 staff members | |
| Himeji City Board of Himeji Castle Administration Office of Himji-jo : 25 staff members | |
| Himeji City Construction Section: 3 staff members | |
| Himeji City Japan Castle Research Centre: 12 staff members | |
| Himeji City Park Department In Charge of Himeji Park : 6 staff members | |
| NPOs | |
| Himeji-jo Protection Club: approx. 600 members | |
| Organization for the protection of Himeji-jo and development of local culture | |
| Himeji Aijo Club: 400 member organizations (approximately 7,000 people per year participate in the organization's activities) | |
| Cleaning of Himeji-jo and surrounding areas including Himeji Park | |
| Himeji City Cultural Properties Protection Association: approx. 700 members | |
| Organization for the protection, study and promotion of Cultural Properties | |
| Is the staffing level sufficient for adequate management of the property? | NO |
| If NO, what should be done to improve the situation? | 044 |
| | 045 |

H.4. continued

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| Does the staff need additional training? | YES |
| If YES, what are the training needs for your staff? | 046 |
| In order to improve the skills of the technical staff and pass those skills to following generations, | 047 |
| (1) training for conservation repair works (by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and conservation groups of Selected Conservation Techniques) , | |
| (2) training for excavation investigations by the Independent Administrative Institution National Research Institute for Cultural Properties | |
| (3) field training to municipal government officers on excavation investigations of Cultural Properties by Hyogo Prefecture Board of Education (one year as a rule) | |
| have been carried out. | |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| | Describe the funding and financial situation of the property, indication sources, level and regularity of financing: | 048 |
| | For the purposes of repair and maintenance of Himeji-jo and the Himeji-jo site, sufficient finance is available constantly from subsidies by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Hyogo Prefecture together with admission fees and the budget of Himeji City. | |
| | Is the available funding sufficient for adequate management of the property? YES | 049 |
| | If NOT, describe the financial resources that would be required for the management of the property: | 050 |

| | | |
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| | Indicate International Assistance from which the property has benefited: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Fund: None | 051 |

II.4. continued

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO International Campaign: None | 052 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and/or regional projects of UNDP, the World Bank or other agencies: None | 053 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral co-operation: None | 054 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other assistance: None | 055 |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| <p>Describe the IT (computer) equipment of the site and/or management office and assess its effectiveness:</p> <p>The disaster prevention facilities installed in the property area are connected to the Himeji City's fire fighting operation room by a devoted line and all the data in the Himeji-jo relating to emergency and disaster cases are transferred automatically, so that the fire fighting operation room can take direct command of emergency measures to cope with disasters.</p> <p>Besides, the e-mail communication is available and officers of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Hyogo Prefecture and Himeji City can exchange technical information.</p> | 056 |
| <p>Are you using (multiple indications are possible):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PC (X) Apple () Mainframe ()</p> | 057 |
| <p>Please, give the number of available computers:</p> <p>Himeji City Administration Office: 3 Culture Section of Himeji City Board of Education: 15 Cultural Asset Protection Office of Hyogo Prefecture Board of Education: 13</p> | 058 |
| <p>Does an operational access to the Internet exist? YES</p> | 059 |

II.4. continued

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| Is e-mail used for daily correspondence? | YES | 060 |
| Is there a Geographical Information System (GIS) for the site? | NO | 061 |
| If YES, what software do you have and how is the GIS used? | | 062 |

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| <p>List scientific studies and research programmes that have been conducted concerning the site:</p> <p>a. Study of stonewalls of Himeji-jo From 1995 to 1996</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Developing a chronology of stonewalls of the Himeji-jo from the ancient ones at the times of Toyotomi Hideyoshi to the repaired ones of the post-Meiji Period</p> <p>b. Physical investigation for the third donjon etc. From 2000 (on-going for 5 years)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Investigation to collect physical data to support a newly found archeological material, i.e. a detailed plan of Himeji-jo, by means of underground radar, etc.</p> <p>c. Excavation investigation in the precincts of the National Himeji Hospital</p> | 063 |
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If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| From 1995 To 2000 | |
| d. International Academic Conference on World Cultural Heritages In 1996 Theme: past, present and future of wooden architecture | |
| e. Study on dynamics of fire-caused smokes in the Himeji-jo area, effective fire extinguishing activities and appropriate escaping routes In 1999 | |
| f. Measurement of the main tower of the Himeji-jo and stonewalls From 1998 To 2000 | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Describe financial and human resource inputs for the research programmes and or facilities: Financial resource: subsidies from the national and prefectural governments and budget of Himeji City | 064 |
| a. Himeji Centre for Research into Castles and Fortifications | |
| b. Himeji Centre for Research into Castles and Fortifications | |
| c. Himeji City Board of Education (Culture Section) | |
| d. Himeji City | |
| e. Committee for Research on the Dynamics of Fire-Caused Smoke in the Himeji-jo | |
| f. Himeji City | |
| Describe how the information / results are disseminated? | 065 |
| a. <i>Himejijo Ishigaki Kenkyu no Zenteitekisagyo Jokaku Kenkyusitsu Nempo Vol.5</i> [Preliminary Work for Research on the Stonewalls of Himeji-jo. Annual Report of the Himeji Centre for Research into Castles and Fortifications. Vol.5] | |
| b. <i>Report of Physical Investigation for the Special Historic Site, Himeji-jo (1st Stage) – 3rd Donjon Site</i> | |
| c. <i>Special Historic Sit, Himeji-jo, I – Report of an Archaeological Investigation Related to the Renewal Construction Work for the National Himeji Hospital Vol.1</i> | |
| d. <i>International Academic Conference on World Cultural Heritages -- Past, Present and Future of Wooden Architecture</i> | |
| e. <i>Report of a study on dynamics of fire-caused smokes in the Himeji-jo area, effective fire extinguishing activities and appropriate escaping routes</i> | |

II.4. continued

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| Are there any visitor statistics for the site? | YES | 066 |
| If YES, please summarise the statistics and attach to this report: | | 067 |
| Himeji City Tourist Statistics (Fiscal Year 2000) | | |
| The number of visitors to Himeji City | | |
| Total Himeji-jo-surrounding area Himeji-jo | | |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| FY1991 | 6,265,000 | 1,597,000 | 871,000 | |
| FY1992 | 6,697,000 | 1,889,000 | 885,000 | |
| FY1993 | 7,324,000 | 2,076,000 | 1,020,000 | |
| FY1994 | 7,424,000 | 1,945,000 | 983,000 | |
| FY1995 | 6,316,000 | 1,502,000 | 695,000 | |
| FY1996 | 7,246,000 | 1,738,000 | 861,000 | |
| FY1997 | 6,741,000 | 1,506,000 | 716,000 | |
| FY1998 | 7,116,000 | 1,543,000 | 792,000 | |
| FY1999 | 7,734,000 | 1,573,000 | 713,000 | |
| FY2000 | 7,466,000 | 1,395,000 | 662,000 | |
| What visitor facilities do you have at the property? | | | | 068 |
| The Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History and the "Kokoen" are available as visitor facilities. | | | | |
| What visitor facilities are you in need of? | | | | 069 |
| There is a need for an information centre where visitors can have access to comprehensive information on Himeji-jo. | | | | |
| Is a public use plan (tourism / visitor management plan) in existence for the property? | | | | 070 |
| YES | | | | |

II.4. continued

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| If YES, please summarise, if NO explain if one is needed: | | | | 071 |
| Hyogo Prefecture, preparing the "21 st Century Hyogo Long-Term Vision – Beautiful Hyogo 21" and promoting the "Action Plan for Rediscovering Culture of Home Town" aimed to encourage people to have closer relationship with the local culture and history and nourish attachment and pride toward home land in them, have been making efforts to promote the protection and utilization of the World Cultural Heritage and to make historical cultural resources and rich natural resources more attractive and better known to the public. | | | | |

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| Indicate how the property's World Heritage values are communicated to residents, visitors and the public (please attach examples of leaflets, videos, posters etc. and print-outs and/or the address of a web-page): | | | | 072 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Himeji Handy Guide (available in Japanese, English, German, French, Korean and Chinese) • <i>Himeji-jo Shuhen Meguri Pamphlet</i> [Visitors Guide for Tour around Himeji-jo] • <i>Kiokuno Kaidan – Himeji-jo no Kozo</i> [Steps of Memory – Structure of Himeji-jo] • http://www.city.himeji.hyogo.jp | | | | |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| <p>• <i>Takumi no Waza to Kokoro</i> [Skills and Spirits of Masters]</p> | | |
| Are there educational programmes concerning the property aimed at schools? | YES | 073 |
| If yes, please describe: | | 074 |
| <p>For elementary schools and junior high schools</p> <p><i>Sekaibunkaisan Himeji-jo wo Shiraberu</i> [Studying the World Cultrual Heritage, Himeji-jo] (teaching material)</p> <p><i>Sekaibunkaisan Himeji-jo wo Shiraberu II</i> [Studying the World Cultrual Heritage, Himeji-jo. II] (teaching material)</p> <p>Promotion of utilization of museums in school education</p> <p><i>Kyozai Himeji – Oshromonogatari</i> [Textbook. Himeji – Story of a Castle] (additional teaching material for 4th grade elementary school children)</p> <p>For higher education</p> <p><i>Sekaibunkaisan Himeji-jo wo Shiraberu</i> [Studying the Cultrual World Heritage, Himeji-jo] (teaching material)</p> <p><i>Sekaibunkaisan Himeji-jo wo Shiraberu II</i> [Studying the Cultrual World Heritage, Himeji-jo. II] (teaching material)</p> <p>Practices of measurement of gate sites, photo measurement of stone wal,s, excavations, and rubbing copy making of roof tiles in the Himeji-jo.</p> | | |

| | | |
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| What role does World Heritage inscription play for the site concerning the visitor number, the research programmes and/or the awareness building activities? | | 075 |
| <p>World Heritage inscription has contributed to increased cases where tourists return to the Himeji-jo more than once, thus increasing opportunities for them to be exposed to its value.</p> <p>The following two changes are the most significant ones related to this:</p> <p>First, a forum has been in place where citizens and traditional experts gather to discuss support measures for the conservation of traditional skills (including plastering techniques and stonework), which are essential to the conservation of the Himeji-jo itself.</p> <p>Secondly, signboards, pamphlets, announcement in the area, voluntary guides are now available in several languages, reflecting the international perspectives shared by people concerned.</p> <p>In addition, the number of visitors has increased by 26 % than that of last year, which is ascribable to the World Heritage inscription.</p> | | |

II.5. Factors affecting the property

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| | <p>Please comment on the degree to which the property is threatened by particular problems and risks, such as development pressure, environmental pressure, natural disasters and preparedness, visitor / tourism pressure, number of inhabitants. Also mention all other issues that you see as problematic.</p> <p>By means of installation of disaster prevention facilities, etc., the framework to cope with disasters is in place. In addition, efforts have been made to maintain the property in a good condition constantly. These measures are being implemented appropriately.</p> | 076 |
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II.5. continued

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| | <p>Is there an emergency plan and / or risk preparedness plan for the property in existence? YES</p> <p>If YES, please summarise the plan and provide a copy:</p> <p>Himeji-jo Disaster Prevention Plan (refer to the attachment) Opinions Regarding Disaster Prevention Facilities Projects for the Himeji-jo. (refer to the attachment)</p> <p>If NO, describe what is being done – and by whom – to counteract the dangers that threaten or may threaten the property:</p> | 077 078 079 |
| | <p>Indicate areas where improvement would be desirable and/or towards which the State Party is working:</p> <p>Efforts are being made to reinforce protection against disasters, especially from the viewpoint of fire protection for wooden cultural properties.</p> <p>For instance, the property is equipped with fire alarm systems and ITV monitors as well as fire protection with sprinklers. In addition, a disaster prevention centre is in operation to monitor the area for 24 hours a day.</p> | 080 |

II.5. continued

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| | <p>Give an indication if the impact of the factors affecting the property is increasing or decreasing:</p> <p>The attached “Key Indicators for Monitoring the State of Conservation” (refer to Appendix 4) is to be compiled every year for the purpose of monitoring the status of conservation for the property</p> | 081 |
| | <p>What actions have been effectively taken, or are planned for the future, to address the factors affecting the property?</p> | 082 |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| | The framework for the protection of the World Cultural Heritage against fire and other risks (refer to the answer to Question 080) is to be continually improved and reinforced. | |
|--|--|--|

II.6. Monitoring

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| | If applicable, give details (e.g. dates, results, indicators chosen) of any previous periodic or reactive monitoring exercises of the property: None. | 083 |
| | Is there a formal monitoring system established for the site? YES | 084 |
| | If YES, please give details of its organisation: Refer to the answer to Question 029. | 085 |

II.6. continued

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| | If not already in place, is the establishment of a formal monitoring system planned? YES | 086 |
| | If YES, please outline the functioning of that system, taking into consideration the key indicators you will be asked to define below (see 089 / 090): | 087 |
| | Are there any indicators established for monitoring the state of conservation of the property? YES | 088 |
| | If YES, please provide up-to-date information with respect to each of the key indicators established and/or used. Care should be taken to ensure that this information is as accurate and reliable as possible, for example by carrying out observations in the same way, using similar equipment and methods at the same time of the year and day. Name and describe the key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of this property: The attached "Key Indicators for Monitoring the State of Conservation" (refer to Appendix 4) is to be compiled every year for the purpose of monitoring the status of conservation for the property | 089 |
| | If NO indicators have been identified and / or used so far, please define key indicators for future use in monitoring: | 090 |

II.6. continued

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| <p>Indicate which partners, if any, are involved or will be involved in the regular monitoring exercise:</p> <p>Himeji City Board of Education (Culture Section) Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education (Cultural Asset Protection Office) Agency for Cultural Affairs (Cultural Properties Department, Monuments and Sites Division and Architecture and Other Structures Division)</p> <p>Identify the administrative provisions for organizing the regular monitoring of the property:</p> <p>Provisions of The Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties</p> | <p>091</p> <p>092</p> |
| <p>Describe what improvement the State Party foresees or would consider desirable in improving the monitoring system:</p> <p>The current system based on the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties is working sufficiently effectively.</p> | <p>093</p> |
| <p>In specific cases, the World Heritage Committee and/or its Bureau may have already examined the state of conservation of the property and made recommendations to the State Party, either at the time of inscription or afterwards. In such cases the State Party is requested to report on the actions that have been taken in response to the observations or decisions made by the Bureau or Committee. Give details, if applicable:</p> <p>None</p> | <p>094</p> |

II.7. Conclusions and recommended actions

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| <p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above):</p> <p>Compared with other castles in Japan, the Himeji-jo is exceptionally excellent, in terms of the structure of the 4 castle towers and the excellent design of the entire architecture characterized by white walls. In addition, the buildings composing the castle such as castle towers, turrets, gates and earthen walls remain in a good condition of preservation. As such, the Himeji-jo is one of the representative cultural heritages of Japan.</p> <p>Since the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, its value as the World Heritage has been appropriately maintained through the strict implementation of procedures based on the domestic laws.</p> | <p>095</p> |
| <p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding the management and factors affecting the property (see items II.4. and II.5. above):</p> <p>The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Hyogo Prefecture, Himeji City, NPOs, etc. are currently making co-operative efforts for the conservation, repair and management of the property.</p> | <p>096</p> |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| This framework will be maintained in the future, too. | |
| <p>Give an overview over proposed future action / actions:</p> <p>It is envisaged that, as the current trend of the decreasing number of skilled experts continue, deficiency of those skilled technicians is going to be a serious problem in the middle and long term. In this regard, it is necessary to go beyond the protection of tangible cultural properties and to train human resources for the purpose of increasing experienced technicians with traditional skills and establish an educational facility in cooperation with citizens.</p> <p>In case of the Himeji-jo, the preservation and training of plastering and stonework techniques are especially important; in this recognition, conservation bodies for these two techniques has already been started.</p> | 097 |
| <p>Name the agency responsible for implementation of these actions (if different from 005):</p> <p>According to the Law for the Protection of the Cultural Properties, these actions will be carried out by the Administrative Office of Himeji-jo and the Himeji Centre for Research into Castles and Fortifications in co-ordination and cooperation with the Himeji City Board of Education and Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education. The Agency of Cultural Affairs is to provide instructions and advice as necessary.</p> | 098 |
| <p>Give a timeframe for the implementation of the actions described above:</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> | 099 |

II.7. continued

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| <p>Indicate for which of the planned activities International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund may be needed (if any):</p> <p>None</p> | 100 |
| <p>Are there any contacts with management units of other properties within or outside your country?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES</p> | 101 |
| <p>If YES, please explain:</p> <p>“The Meeting of Directors of Prefectures with World Heritage” and “The Meeting of Cities with World Heritages in Japan” are held every year. Hyogo Prefecture is a member of the former meeting and Himeji City is a member of the latter meeting. At these meetings, information and opinions are exchanged on effective preservation and promotion of the World Heritage.</p> <p>In addition, cultural exchange regarding the preservation and management of the World Heritage has been made with sister castles, Ville de Chantilly in France and Swon City in South Korea.</p> | 102 |
| <p>Please indicate which experience made during the periodic reporting exercise and/or during the on-going conservation / protection efforts of the property could be shared with other</p> | 103 |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| <p>States Parties dealing with similar problems or issues:</p> <p>Disaster prevention measures for wooden cultural properties can be shared with other States Parties.</p> | |
| <p>Provide the name(s) and address(es) of organization(s) or specialist(s) who could be contacted for this purpose:</p> <p>Agency / Organisation: Himeji City Board of Education (Culture Section) Person(s) responsible: TAMAOKA Michisaburo Address: 4-1 Yasuda, Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture City and post code: 670-8501 Telephone: +81 792 21 2787 Fax: +81 792 93 5165 E-mail: kyo-bunka@city.himeji.hyogo.jp</p> <p>Agency / Organisation: Hyogo Prefecture Board of Education (Cultural Asset Protection Office) Person(s) responsible: TSUJII Fumio (Manager of Cultural Asset Protection Office) Contact person: MURAKAMI Yasumichi (Chief of Cultural Asset Protection Office) Address: 5-10-1 Shimoyamate-dori Chuo-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture City and post code: 650-8567 Telephone: +81 78 362 3783 Fax: +81 78 362 3927 E-mail: yamauchi_murakami@pref.hyogo.jp</p> <p>Agency / Organisation: Agency for Cultural Affairs (Cultural Properties Department, Monuments and Sites Division and Architecture and Other Structures Division) Person(s) responsible: OKI Takahito (Director of Monuments and Sites Division) KAMEI Nobuo (Director of Architecture and Other Structures Division) Contact person: NAKATA Naoki (Monuments and Sites Division) Address: 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo City and post code: 100-8959 Telephone: +81 3 3581 1726 Fax: +81 3 3591 0293 E-mail: nakata@bunka.go.jp</p> | 104 |

II.8. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section II

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties

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| <p>Was sufficient and adequate information made available to the responsible authorities and individuals during the preparation phase of the Periodic Reporting exercise (information given, meetings etc.)?</p> <p>Meetings for explanation were held as appropriate and detailed information was provided to relevant prefectural governments.</p> | 105 |
| <p>Was the questionnaire clear and did it help to comply with the reporting requirements of the State Party?</p> <p>It is useful for the establishment of a conservation monitoring system covering a wide range of issues concerning conservation based on a fixed standard or a viewpoint, regardless of the differences between countries in terms of national character and climate.</p> | 106 |
| <p>What are the perceived benefits and lessons learnt of the exercise?</p> <p>This exercise provided a good opportunity to review the implementation of World Heritage Convention in Japan.</p> | 107 |
| <p>Please describe the expected outcome of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the desired follow-up by the World Heritage Committee:</p> <p>If the public understanding about the efforts for the protection of the World Heritages in Japan, the status of preservation and international cooperation could be further deepened, the current framework will take deeper roots to the extent that excellent conservation activities by the international standards are expected to be achieved.</p> | 108 |

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).

II.9. Documentation attached

The State Party is invited to supply the materials listed below. Please check those items that were attached.

1. (X) Maps and plans showing the general location of the property, its boundary and buffer zone as well as the necessary detail of the property itself (see question 003 for specifications)
2. (X) Photo of general view (aerial view) of the property
3. (X) Illustrations of the state of conservation of the site (photographs, slides and, if available, film/videos)
4. (X) Details of the important aspects of the property (landscapes, animal and vegetable species, monuments etc.)
5. () Photos illustrating the main threats to the site and its surroundings
6. (X) Extracts of relevant laws and regulations concerning the protection of cultural and natural heritage at national, provincial and municipal levels
7. (X) Copies of the management plan of the site as well as extracts and/or copies of other plans relating to the site (e.g. emergency plan, use plan, etc.)
8. (X) Indicative bibliography

If the space on the Questionnaire is not sufficient, please continue on a separate page, clearly labelling the answer with the corresponding number of the question (e.g. 006).