

# MALAYSIA

### 1.1 Introduction

**Year of ratification** 1988

#### Organization submitting the report

- Department of Museums & Antiquities  
Jalan Damansara  
50566 Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia

### 1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

#### The status of national inventories

- The 'National Steering Committee on Natural & Cultural Heritage' has, in consultation with state governments, identified a number of cultural sites.

#### The preparation of a Tentative List

- 1 site (1998), revised in 2001.
- After obtaining approval from respective state governments, local communities and agencies can submit proposals to the National Steering Committee.
- "If the proposal meets the requirements of World Heritage Listing, then a cabinet paper is prepared in consultation with the relevant agencies." Following cabinet approval, the nomination is forwarded to UNESCO by the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### Nominations and the nomination process

- 1998 2 nominations (inscribed)  
(a) Kinabalu Park  
(b) Gunung Mulu National Park
- 1999 \* Niah Caves nomination (not examined, as it is incomplete)

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

#### Integration of heritage and planning

- Museums & Antiquities Act 1976 (under revision).
- Local Government & Housing Act (under revision).
- State government enactment covering heritage protection.

#### Participation of local communities

- Awareness of local people raised through workshops, seminars, "ASP Net activities", media and forums.

#### Tourism Development

- 'Planned tours' are encouraged, and access to WH properties is monitored.
- NGOs & private sector invited to "dialogue sessions".

#### Financial measures and budget allowance

- "Financial measures are incorporated in the operating budgets of the relevant agencies." This is part of a regular budget which provides for culture and environment. No figures supplied.
- Public and private foundations receive "money through grants and donations."

#### Professional

- Research carried out in local universities: 'University Technology Malaysia' for built heritage; and 'University Kebangsaan Malaysia' for biodiversity.
- Training is carried out in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) in Japan, and the Seameo Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFM) in Thailand.

#### New and improved services

- Training modules are currently being enhanced.

#### Issues to be addressed

- Current lack of co-ordination between State and Federal agencies and "non-uniformity" of laws.
- Need to increase awareness among administrators as well as collaboration with NGOs.
- Heritage legislation needs to be revised and made more effective.

### 1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

#### National and International Fund Raising

- \* International Assistance from the WHF as follows:  
1989 \$5,245 Preparatory, Cultural sites nomination  
1990 \$15,000 Preparatory, Cultural sites nomination  
\$5,000 Technical, Conference on natural sites  
1998 \$12,675 Preparatory, Seminar on Convention implementation
- A Joint Malaysia-Indonesia transborder natural WH nomination for the 'Central Borneo Montane Forest' is under preparation.

### 1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

#### Information and awareness measures

- Heritage studies have been incorporated at the primary school level. Secondary school students are involved in 'ASP Net' activities related to heritage protection.

## *1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions*

### **Conclusions and proposed actions**

- There is focus on youth awareness raising.
- The Government is drawing up “comprehensive plans to include heritage protection, conservation and enhancement in all its development plans”.
- Specialists are required in certain areas of heritage.
- Lesson learnt: ‘Heritage lost cannot be replaced’.
- Proposal to exchange officers and share best practices.