

# PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

## SECTION I: APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATE PARTY

### I.1 Introduction

- a. **State Party**  
New Zealand
- b. **Year of ratification or acceptance of the Convention**  
Ratified 22 November 1984
- c. **Organisation responsible for the preparation of the report**  
The Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai)
- d. **Date of the report**
- e. **Signature on behalf of the Party**

### Introductory notes

- (1) The Department of Conservation is the state party representative for the Government of New Zealand, having administrative responsibility for the requirements of the Convention. It is also the agency that manages our current World Heritage sites. The Department does, however, acknowledge and encourage the contributing roles of other government and non-government agencies and of individuals in assisting New Zealand to be an effective state party to the World Heritage Convention.
- (2) In this report, references to the Department of Conservation are as the State Party representative or as manager of New Zealand's current World Heritage sites.
- (3) Management of World Heritage sites and work in support of the Convention is undertaken within other duties and is not resourced separately from them. It is not therefore possible to identify staffing levels, funding and infrastructure support, including computer availability, that are applied to this work.
- (4) In New Zealand, 'historic heritage' is used to represent the term 'cultural heritage', as applied in the World Heritage Convention.

## I.2 Identification of cultural and natural properties

### b. National inventories and b. tentative list

The Department of Conservation is currently reviewing its procedures for involving the community in the identification of sites for inclusion in New Zealand's 'national inventory' and 'tentative World Heritage list'. The current focus of this work is to establish processes to involve the indigenous Māori community. Development of the inventory and tentative list will be deferred until these community consultation processes have been developed.

### c. Nominations

New Zealand's World Heritage nominations have been successful and have resulted in the inscription of three sites, as summarised in the following table:

Year	Property	Categories
1986	Westland and Mount Cook; Fiordland National Parks	N(i) (ii) (iii) N(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)
1990	<b>Te Wahipounamu – south west New Zealand</b> (Expanded and renamed to include Westland, Mount Cook, Fiordland and Mount Aspiring National Parks)	N(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)
1990	<b>Tongariro National Park</b>	N (ii) (iii)
1993	<b>Tongariro National Park</b>	N (ii) (iii); C (vi)
1998	<b>New Zealand's sub-Antarctic Islands</b>	N (ii) (iv)

Experience in attempts to develop national inventories and tentative lists of potential World Heritage sites and wetlands of international significance (Ramsar sites) has convinced the Department of Conservation that it is unwise to undertake these exercises in the absence of appropriate community consultation. In New Zealand, Māori with particular tribal association with these areas have a special place in the consultation process. The Department's current efforts are being directed to developing appropriate processes for that consultation.

## I.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

### a. General policy development

#### World Heritage sites:

New Zealand's World Heritage properties are on Crown land, managed by the Department of Conservation for conservation purposes. The Department develops policy for the management of conservation land generally, which is applied through conservation management strategies and plans. That policy relates directly to New Zealand's World Heritage sites, addressing such matters as the conservation and appropriate enhancement of the sites' natural and cultural values and the requirements of communities to enjoy these sites and appreciate their significance as a part of our World Heritage.

Opportunities are being explored for increasing the involvement of Māori, as New Zealand's indigenous community, in the co-operative management of the World Heritage sites with which they have a particular ancestral association. This work has led to the proposal for a World Heritage Indigenous People's Council of Experts (WHIPCOE). This proposal has not been accepted by the World Heritage Committee but New Zealand continues to work with other interested countries to develop and apply its principles.

**b. Status of services for protection, conservation and presentation**

National and World Heritage

New Zealand's natural and historic heritage is protected by several key pieces of legislation, described in I.3.d below, under the responsibility of the Ministers of Conservation, Cultural Heritage and Environment.

The complementary nature of the legislation generates regular dialogue to ensure that national policies to implement the individual Acts of Parliament are not in conflict and, where possible, are mutually supportive.

Role of the Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation is the central government organisation charged with conserving the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand on behalf of, and for, the benefit of present and future New Zealanders.

Its mission is "to conserve New Zealand's natural and historic heritage for all to enjoy now and in the future".

The Department's responsibilities are described in its Maori name - Te Papa Atawhai; Te Papa signifies a box or container (for the taonga or treasures) and Atawhai the act of caring, nurturing or preserving.

The Department manages or administers on behalf of New Zealanders:

- national parks and forest parks;
- reserves and conservation areas;
- protected indigenous forests;
- protected inland waters and wild and scenic rivers;
- indigenous/native wildlife;
- non-commercial freshwater fisheries;
- historic places on conservation land; and
- marine reserves and protecting marine mammals offshore islands set aside for conservation.

New Zealand's World Heritage sites are on land managed, almost in its entirety, by the Department of Conservation. The Department provides protection, conservation and presentation services from within its national and regional conservancy structure of 1400 staff.

In 2001, the Department allocated the co-ordination of World Heritage site management to its Southern Regional General Manager. This move was intended to increase the level of consistency of policy applied to these sites and to create a greater sense of their identity as World Heritage properties.

### **c. Scientific and technical studies and research**

Scientific and technical studies and research relating to New Zealand's World Heritage sites principally focus on the conservation of our indigenous species and ecosystems; the human history associated with the land that the Department manages and on managing the experience and impacts of visitors. The Department of Conservation funds most of this work.

Recent publications of general significance to World Heritage management are:

Cessford, G. (ed) 2001. *The state of wilderness in New Zealand*, Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand, 107 p.

Harris, S.; Brown, J.; Timmins, S. 2001. Weed surveillance - how often to search? *Science for Conservation* 175. 27 p.

Hutcheson, J.; Walsh, P.; Given, D. 1999. Potential value of indicator species for conservation and management of New Zealand terrestrial communities. *Science for Conservation* 109. 90p.

James, B. 2001. Rotoiti nature recovery project: an evaluation of advocacy. *Science for Conservation* 160. 46 p.

Overton, J; Leathwick, J. R.. 2001. Measuring environmental distinctiveness. *Science for Conservation* 174. 20 p.

Sheppard, B. (ed), 2001 *'Proceedings of the World Heritage Managers' workshop, Tongariro National Park, 26-30 October 2000'*, Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand, 168 p.

### **d. Measures for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation**

#### Legislation and national policies

New Zealand's legislation does not specifically refer to World Heritage sites but nevertheless applies to them. The principal legislation concerning the protection, conservation, preservation and rehabilitation of New Zealand's national heritage is the Conservation Act; National Parks Act; Reserves Act and Wildlife Act (administered by the Minister of Conservation); the Historic Places Act (administered through the Historic Places Trust by the Minister for Culture and Heritage); and the Resource Management Act (administered by the Minister for the Environment).

#### Application to World Heritage sites

Within the context of managing conservation land generally, the Department of Conservation has a suite of decision making and planning tools that support World Heritage obligations. These are further refined by a series of general management principles including a biodiversity strategy, a visitor strategy and an historic heritage strategy. National and regional conservation management strategies and plans provide detailed guidance for particular places and 'Standard Operating Procedures' have been developed for specific management tasks. Standards for presentation of World Heritage sites are also defined, through World Heritage visitor information guidelines.

#### Presentation of World Heritage sites and values:

Visitor centres at Whakapapa (Tongariro National Park) and Haast (Te Wahipounamu) provide visitors with attractively-presented information on the significance of these sites; their World Heritage values and how those values are being managed. They also provide advice on visitor safety.

#### Community involvement in the conservation of natural and historic heritage

Community involvement in the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic heritage is achieved through the initiatives of a number of agencies.

The Department of Conservation has an extensive programme to involve communities in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage. This includes oversight by local conservation boards and opportunities to participate in volunteer programmes. Conservation issues are also openly and routinely discussed with community groups and non-governmental organisations.

Other agencies that are most closely associated with the involvement of communities in the conservation of our natural and historic heritage include: ICOMOS New Zealand, IUCN – New Zealand Committee; UNESCO National Commission; New Zealand Archaeological Association; New Zealand Historic Places Trust; and the Royal New Zealand Forest & Bird Protection Society.

#### Private sector involvement

The private sector sponsors a number of significant conservation projects, either directly or through such agencies as the Threatened Species Trust and the National Parks and Conservation Foundation.

#### Other international Conventions:

New Zealand is a party to a number of international conventions for the protection of natural and historic heritage, including: the Antarctic Treaty; Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar); and the International Convention on Whaling. For each of these conventions, the Department is either the lead advisor or a principal advisor to Government and it maintains contact with other agencies that have either complete or partial responsibility for them.

#### Scientific and technical support for natural and historic heritage management:

Government agencies, including the Department of Conservation, and specialist institutions within New Zealand undertake inventories that identify aspects of our natural and/or cultural heritage. The resultant databases are used by the Department and other agencies to assist in the protection of the heritage that they describe. The major initiatives in this work are generally funded, administered, or given technical support, by relevant government agencies.

#### **e. Training**

Government and specialist institutions provide training opportunities for staff and members of community groups that are engaged in understanding and managing our natural and historic heritage. The Department of Conservation also works with an external training organisation to provide general instruction for trainee rangers.

#### **I.4 International co-operation and fund-raising**

New Zealand co-operates with other countries to further the aims of the World Heritage Convention. We have a strong record of institutional and personal support to assist in the evaluation and management of World Heritage and national heritage sites.

In October 2000, the Department of Conservation hosted and facilitated the UNESCO World Heritage Managers' workshop for the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop was held at the Tongariro National Park World Heritage site.

The New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance (now NZAID) programme has also funded a contract position for a World Heritage officer at the UNESCO Office for the Pacific, in Apia.

#### **I.5 Education, information and awareness building**

- The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO has developed an Internet-based New Zealand addition to UNESCO's World Heritage Education kit. The National Commission is also co-ordinating a Pacific addition to the kit, which will involve input from Australia, Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands.
- The Ministry of Education has funded the 'LEARNZ' computer-based, interactive education programme for New Zealand schools, which has included popular modules on Te Wahipounamu and the Tongariro National Park World Heritage sites.
- The Department of Conservation maintains an internet website that provides a ready source of information about the World Heritage Convention and New Zealand's World Heritage sites. It also provides links to the World Heritage Centre's website and to other key websites that relate to World Heritage in this region.

#### **I.6 Conclusions and recommended action**

##### **a. Main conclusions**

###### Domestic

New Zealand's three World Heritage sites are on land already managed for conservation purposes. This presents an interesting challenge, of identifying ways of improving the conservation benefit that can be derived from World Heritage inscription. Each is recognised for its outstanding natural character and one (Tongariro) is also recognised as an outstanding cultural landscape. This cultural association and New Zealand's Treaty obligations to Māori have provided a focus for increasing the involvement of Māori in the work of the World Heritage Convention.

Visitor centres provide attractively-presented information on the significance of these World Heritage properties; their World Heritage values and how those values are being managed. They also provide advice on visitor safety. Other information for Te Wahipounamu is co-ordinated thematically and systematically through an agreed set of standards. The information is also summarised on the Department of Conservation's internet web site.

###### International

New Zealand's international involvement has focused on technical support and exchange of information but, in this reporting period, it has funded a contract

position for a World Heritage officer at the UNESCO Office for the Pacific, in Apia.

New Zealand's broader associations with our Pacific neighbours also provide opportunities for furthering the work of the Convention in those countries.

#### Education, information and awareness building

New Zealand has undertaken several education initiatives including education kits for schools and maintenance of World Heritage web pages on the Department's web site. It is now also forming an inter-agency liaison committee, to facilitate effective involvement of agencies beyond the state party representative in the work of the Convention.

#### **b. Proposed future action(s)**

New Zealand is planning further work in the following areas:

##### (a) Existing World Heritage Properties:

Identify greater opportunities for using the World Heritage properties to convey key conservation messages and to promote the World Heritage Convention.

##### (b) Development of tentative lists:

Involve the community and key stakeholder groups in the identification of sites to be included on the tentative list.

##### (c) International outreach:

- Explore ways of assisting neighbouring Pacific island countries to participate in the World Heritage Convention;
- Develop further, with interested states parties, means of allowing a greater involvement of indigenous peoples in the management of their traditional cultural heritage. This will include continued support of reciprocal opportunities for staff to gain experience in working with indigenous peoples in World Heritage sites in other countries.
- Stand for election in 2003 to the World Heritage Committee.

##### (b) Inter-agency liaison:

Development of a World Heritage Liaison Committee, to facilitate involvement of other agencies in the work of the Convention.

#### **c. Responsible implementation agency(ies)**

The Department of Conservation.

#### **d. Timeframe for implementation**

The timeframe for developing a national inventory and indicative list will be dependent on the progress made in gaining the acceptance and participation by Māori and other key sectors of the community.

#### **e. Needs for national assistance**

None.