

TURKMENISTAN

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1994

Organisation submitting the report

- Department for the Protection, Study & Restoration of Monuments, Ministry of Culture,
- Turkmenistan National Commission for UNESCO.

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- The compilation of the national inventory is an ongoing process including the issuance of 'Protection Certificates' indicating the owners' responsibilities.

Preparation of a Tentative List

- 4 sites, submitted in 1996 with international advice facilitated by UNESCO, * revised in 1998.
- Local authorities and local populations were involved in the process.
- * In May 2000, a 'Global Strategy Expert Meeting on Central Asian Cultural Heritage' was co-organised by WHC and Turkmenistan in Ashgabat & Merv. Themes to make Tentative Lists more representative were identified.

Nominations and the nomination process

- 1996 4 nominations (deferred/not examined)
 - (a) Dehistan
 - (b) Kunya Urgench
 - (c) Ancient Merv
 - (d) Old Nisa
- 1999 Ancient Merv (inscribed)
- The nomination process was seen to be an aid to capacity-building amongst officials responsible for heritage issues.

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

Integration of heritage and planning

- Heritage properties are protected under the 'Law of Turkmenistan on the protection of the historic and cultural heritage of Turkmenistan' (1992).
- State Parks are designated by Presidential Decree.
- No linkage between heritage protection and planning identified.

Participation of local communities

- Local populations are trained to take part in conservation and restoration work.

Tourism Development

- A State Committee for the Development of Tourism has been established.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- 90% of costs of managing cultural heritage are financed by the State.
- The total regular national budget for Historical and Cultural Parks is 3,225 million Manats (US\$620,192). The regular national budget for Ancient Merv WH Site is 297,000 Manats (US\$57).

Professional Training

- The Academy of Arts of Turkmenistan provides courses including "Restoration of Monuments" and "Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan".
- The Turkmen State University provides training courses including "Archaeology of the Monuments of Turkmenistan" and "Methods of Restoration".
- The National Institute of Sport & Tourism provides training courses in tourism management, ethnography and local lore.
- The Institute of Culture offers training in archaeology, ethnology and museology.

New and improved services

- There are 8 State Historical & Cultural Parks that are being progressively equipped and staffed by the State.
- Levels of training are considered satisfactory.

Issues to be addressed

- 60% of parks do not have sufficient technical means.
- There is a shortage of technical equipment

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- The report records the UNESCO/UNDP restoration project at Kunya Urgench in 1997, and the US State Dept's restoration project at Sheikh Seit Jemaledin Mosque, Annau, 2001-02.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows:

2000	\$30,000	Technical, Ancient Merv
	\$4,700	Technical, Ancient Merv
2002	\$30,000	Training, Dept of Monuments.
	\$38,814	Training, Dept of Monuments.
	\$30,000	Preparatory, Kunya Urgench

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- As part of the national identity building process, Turkmen history and culture are promoted in the media, and in the secondary school curriculum.
- WH Education Kit has been used.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- The World Heritage Convention needs to be more effectively implemented.
- Within the timeframe 2003-2010 the Turkmen authorities seek to: (i) develop natural & mixed heritage nominations; (ii) develop effective methods for the conservation and monitoring of earthen structures; (iii) strengthen international co-operation and fund-raising; (iv) improve capacity in the fields of conservation and heritage protection; (v) raise public awareness through formal & non-formal education systems; (vi) increase awareness of international heritage practice.