

ITALY

Su Nuraxi di Barumini

Brief description

During the late 2nd millennium B.C. in the Bronze Age, a special type of defensive structure known as *nuraghi* (for which no parallel exists anywhere else in the world) developed on the island of Sardinia. The complex consists of circular defensive towers in the form of truncated cones built of dressed stone, with corbel-vaulted internal chambers. The complex at Barumini which was extended and reinforced in the first half of the 1st millennium under Carthaginian pressure, is the finest and most complete example of this remarkable form of prehistoric architecture.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription

1997

Agency responsible for site management

- Soprintendenza for the Archaeological Heritage for the Provinces of Cagliari and Oristano
Piazza Indipendenza 7
09124 Cagliari
Sardegna - CA Italy
E-mail: segsop@arti.beniculturali.it
Website: www.sardegna.beniculturali.it

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria

C (i), (iii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

(Supplementary information of 16/09/1996): (i) The complex of Barumini is an exceptional example of the nuraghe civilisation. It is an architectural complex built in the Bronze Age and then used by Sardinian peoples for a long period. Even if nuraghe remains are located only in Sardinia, nuraghe is considered one of the most important Prehistoric Mediterranean structures.

This monument was brought to light only in the '50s and so it is well-known all over the world.

(ii) Thanks to recent conservation and restoration works, the site keeps almost the original structure, mainly as to the fortification. The walls of the towers are composed of big basalt rocks. In comparison with the other Sardinian nuraghe complexes,

Barumini is the only one that still preserves many residual structures of the village too.

(iii) The site of Barumini was definitively abandoned about in the 6th century B.C. After brief and occasional settlements dating to the VI and VII centuries, it has remained buried for many centuries. For this reason, no intervention has altered its authenticity. And the only visible contemporary interventions aim at the fruition and restoration of the site.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Qualities: The archaeological site of Su Nuraxi at Barumini is the best preserved and most complete example of the unique form of prehistoric defensive complexes known as *nuraghi*. Although these monuments are unique to Sardinia, they represent an exceptional adaptation of materials for defensive purposes at a very early stage in human development.

Recommendation: That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

The *nuraghe* of Sardinia, of which Su Nuraxi is the pre-eminent example, represent an exceptional response to political and social conditions, making an imaginative and innovative use of the materials and techniques available to a prehistoric island community.

Committee Decision

Bureau (June 1997): The Bureau recommended the Committee to inscribe this site on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (iv). The nuraghe of Sardinia, of which Su Nuraxi is the pre-eminent example, represent an exceptional response to political and social conditions, making an imaginative and innovative use of the materials and techniques available to a prehistoric island community.

Session (1997): The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (iii) and (iv), considering that the nuraghe of Sardinia, of which Su Nuraxi is the pre-eminent example, represent an exceptional response to political and social conditions, making an imaginative and innovative use of the materials and techniques available to a prehistoric island community.

Statement of Significance

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: further work needed. The buffer zone protects only the northern and eastern areas. It is not sufficiently adequate
- Change to buffer zone proposed by State Party: In the town-planning of Barumini, a zone H, where no building is allowed, has been already established along the north-eastern boundary of the nuraghe for the total protection of the site. To further strengthen protection of the site, an institutional agreement has been signed between the municipalities bordering on Barumini's archaeological site and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Regional authorities and the Provincial Administration of Cagliari which will facilitate the identification of a vaster buffer zone that includes the overall areas of the aforementioned municipalities and create new forms of protection of the landscape surrounding the site

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained; the monument's level of authenticity is very high. Interventions involving the use of modern materials such as reinforced concrete, metal and wood are minimal and unobtrusive and does not impact adversely on either the authenticity or the appearance of the archaeological remain.
- Works for structural consolidation and conservative maintenance have been carried out in the area; they have improved the conditions of integrity of the archaeological structures. The results of excavations carried out for reasons of conservation also raised the monument's level of authenticity
- At present, no works or modifications that may compromise the integrity of the site are foreseen. At the national, regional and local levels, including single subjects (whether public or private) to whom the monument has been entrusted, all necessary measures for maintaining the integrity of the site have been adopted

3. Protection**Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- The area, which was once private property, covers 2.14.15 hectares; In general, since the site is part of the archaeological and cultural heritage, it is protected by national legislation (Legislative Decree 22 January 2004 no.

42 "Cultural heritage and landscape Code". It has been under restrictions since the issuing of a Ministerial Decree on 12 May 1952. The area outside the site to the northeast is also partially protected by the town-planning, in which it is indicated as an archaeological area

- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions taken/proposed:

- Extend the buffer zone; pursuant to Legislative Decree 42/2004, Articles 136-138-140-141, which constitutes an integral part of the safeguards provided for in the Regional Landscape Code now being drawn up. The landscape restriction represents a declaration acknowledging that the area is of great public interest; its purpose is to institute a specific discipline for protection and enhancement that better responds to the peculiar elements and value of the specific features of the landscape. It is necessary to set up levels of protection to prevent significant changes being made both in areas surrounding the site and in the vaster landscape

4. Management**Use of site/property**

- Visitor attraction

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: formally constituted; its mandate: The purpose of the Committee is to establish the guidelines for the Management Plan, to coordinate studies in the site and buffer zone, to collect data on the other cultural sites in the area, to verify possible risk factors and the attractions present in the area, to perform socioeconomic evaluations, to establish a frame for the objectives to be reached so as to exploit to the fullest the opportunities for cultural, tourist, environmental and promotional growth, until the management plan becomes fully operational
- Management under protective legislation; under contractual agreement between the State Party and a third party
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national, local. The Cooperative Ichnussa
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Implementation of synergies with the surroundings. Rationalization of visits, also by

means of bookings in the high season and incentives for visits in the low season. Increase in services offered to visitors; activation of itineraries to complete the present offer of cultural tourism, with the inclusion of guided tours of the many archaeological, architectural and artistic monuments present in the area and related to the Su Nuraxi site. Implementation of the promotion of local products typical of the rural culture of the area, as well as the immaterial heritage. The municipalities have adhered to the agreement on the Management Plan. The Plan calls for coordinated and integrated actions aimed at enhancing the value of the site

5. Management Plan

- Management plan under preparation
- Implementation commence: 12/2006

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- State Budget; National Operational programme Security, Regional Operational Programme
- European Union Structural Funds
- Sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 32

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, management, promotion; interpretation; education; visitor management

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- The Superintendence for the Archaeological Heritage of the Provinces of Cagliari and Oristano operates at the site for the safeguarding and enhancement of the site, performing highly specialized technical works of excavation, structural consolidation and restoration. Training of the personnel of the cooperative that manages the site is performed in external structures, usually at the university or in occupational training courses offered by the Regional administration. Among the human resources of the Superintendence for the

Archaeological Heritage of the Provinces of Cagliari and Oristano there are specialists who, when necessary, participate in works performed by the Superintendence at the site or in its training activities.

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 70.699 (ticket counting), 2004
- Visitor facilities: Guided visits, illustrative panels, a computerized classroom, a bookshop, refreshments, rest rooms, car park. To complete the services just mentioned, a museum is now being set up in Palazzo Zapata, just a few hundred metres from Su Nuraxi, to contain documents on the excavations of the nuraghe and other archaeological sites in the area

10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management
- Following publication of the results of the exhaustive excavations performed in the 1950s, other divulgata guidebooks in several languages were published at the end of the 1990s. A scientific work that introduced a critical and updated interpretation of excavation data, also on the basis of structural and archaeological analyses of the material for conservation purposes, is the work edited by the Superintendence for Archaeology. As concerns studies and surveys on the state of conservation of the monument, these are in the form of specific and specialized reports which for the time being are in use inside the Superintendence in planning and implementing the works. The management of visitor traffic has been evaluated within the framework of statistical studies
- The result of the studies has led to actions for the conservation of the materials and structures, as well as the publication of a new guide to the site

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem not used on publications

- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- There is no doubt that the UNESCO designation of the site has influenced the overall educational level, but at present the progress made in the process escapes evaluation. Recognition has, however, raised interest among many local authorities for the nuraghi present in their areas. The Municipality of Barumini has placed the UNESCO logo on its official documents concerning the site of Su Nuraxi
- Web site available

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Even after inscription of the site, the ordinary and extraordinary work of maintenance, conservation and security of the main elements of the nuraghic bastion and the dwellings surrounding it, have continued as usual. In connection with such works, in-depth excavations were made to acquire further stratigraphic elements
- Present state of conservation: Good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure; possible increasing farm or civil buildings
- Specific issues: it should be possible to increase of farm or dwelling houses of the Municipality of Barumini or of the Municipalities in the near landscape of the archaeological site;
- Emergency measures taken: institution of landscape restrictions pursuant to Legislative Decree 42/2004, Articles 136-138-140-141; Extension of a buffer zone through the placing of a landscape restriction that imposes strict limits on new transformations of the area

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: the question is now being evaluated, also in drawing up the lines of development of the Management Plan, within the frame of which the indicators of reference will be identified. At present, only data on the presence of visitors, provided by the managing cooperative, are available. The

Superintendence for the Archaeological Heritage of Cagliari constantly checks on the conservation of the integrity and authenticity of the site, ensuring ongoing conservation through the performance of periodic maintenance

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation; management
- Inscription of the site in the UNESCO list has brought: - benefits of a cultural nature, since recognition as part of the World Heritage has strengthened awareness of the specific and historical values of the place and Sardinia as a whole. The process of drawing up the Management Plan, which will lead to management of the site integrated in the surrounding lands, will make it an inspiration for greater protection of the landscape and will lead to actions for the enhancement of the vaster area; - enhancement of the sense of identity and awareness in the general population and among public authorities; - the paying of greater attention to management no longer of the single site, which is also perfectly legitimate, but which also takes into consideration the overall territory; - greater awareness on the part of the Municipality of Barumini of the importance of its cultural heritage: in fact it has restored the ancient Villa Zapata and converted it into a museum, also excavating the nuraghe on which a part of the villa was built
- Strength/Weaknesses of management: Public transport connections are poor since the site is not on the main roads of the island. The nearness of the site to the provincial road that now connects Barumini to Tuili interferes with the context of the prehistoric settlement

Future actions:

- Activation of better public transport facilities also for tourist organized itineraries; Inclusion of the area in specific tourist itineraries within a cultural circuit optimizing the possibility of visits to several sites, with a booking system and regulation of the flow of visitors; Organisation responsible: The Province of Cagliari and the Municipality of Barumini. Timeframe: Those required for completion and activation of the new service centre for tourist management
- Planning of a new route for the provincial road where it passes near the UNESCO site. The aim is the restoration of wholly natural

conditions on the northern side of the archaeological area, by replacing the road between the towns of Barumini and Tuili.
Organisation responsible: The Province of Cagliari and the Municipality of Barumini.
Timeframe: 2010