

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Srebarna Nature Reserve

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Bulgaria

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

219bis


Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

| Name | Coordinates (latitude/longitude) | Property (ha) | Buffer zone (ha) | Total (ha) | Inscription year |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Srebarna Nature Reserve | 44.114 / 27.078 | 638 | 673 | 1311 | 1983 |
| Total (ha) | | 638 | 673 | 1311 | |

1.4 - Map(s)

| Title | Date | Link to source |
|--|------------|---|
| Topographic map of Srebarna Nature reserve World Heritage site and proposed buffer zone, scale 1:10000 | 26/10/2007 |  |

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Tsvetelina Ivanova
Ministry of Environment and Water
State expert
National Nature Protection Service Directorate
Head of department for protected areas and biodive
- Vezhdi Rashidov
Ministry of Culture
Minister of Culture
- NONA KARADJOVA
Ministry of Environment and Water
Minister

Comment

Mrs. Tsvetelina Ivanova is a state expert in National Nature Protection Service Directorate but not head of department as pointed. The phone number of Mrs. Ivanova is 003592 9406106 and the fax number is 003592 940 6197. The name of the acting Minister of environment and water is Mr. Stanislav Anastasov The name of the minister of culture is Mr. Petar Stoyanovich. We propose the Ministry of culture to be deleted as institution responsible for the property.

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Momchil Petrov
Regional Inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Rouse
Junior expert in protected areas

Comment

The fax number of Mr. Momchil Petrov is 00359 82 820779

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)
2. [The Biosphere Reserve Srebarna \(Bulgarian Academy of Science, Central Laboratory of General Ecology\)](#)

Comment

The actual web address of the Property is as follows: www.srebarnalake.com

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

Comment

Srebarna lake is a Wetland of International Importance since 1976 under the Ramsar Convention and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1977. In 1989 the lake was designated as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. In 1998 the area was appointed as CORINE Site because of its European value for preservation of habitats, rare and threatened plant and animal species, including birds. The site is also part of the Ecological network Natura 2000

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Srebarna Nature Reserve protects a lake and wetland ecosystem of 638ha located near to the village of Srebarna on the west bank of the Danube River. The reserve includes the lake and the former agricultural lands north of the lake, a belt of forest plantations along the Danube, the island of Komluka and the aquatic area locked between the island and the riverbank.

Srebarna Nature Reserve is an important wetland on the Western Palaearctic bird migratory flyway. It provides nesting grounds for 99 species of birds and seasonal habitat to around 80 species of migratory birds. The property is surrounded by hills which provide a natural boundary and offer an ideal means for observing the waterfowl.

Criterion (x): Srebarna Nature Reserve protects an important example of a type of wetland that was widespread in Bulgaria in the past. It shelters a diversity of plant and animal species, which are increasingly threatened. The wetland is an important breeding, staging and wintering site for a large number of birds. Floating reedbed islands and flooded willow woodlands provide important bird breeding areas. In the lake's northern end the reedbeds gradually give way to wet meadows. In the north-western end of the lake and along the Danube there are belts of riverine forest with single old trees of White Willow.

The rich bird life supported by Srebarna Nature Reserve is the basis for its international significance. The property holds populations of birds that are considered critical to species survival. It hosts the only colony of Dalmatian Pelican in Bulgaria, as well as the largest breeding populations of four more globally threatened species: Pygmy Cormorant, Ferruginous Duck, White-tailed Eagle and Corncrake. Srebarna is also of European value importance in supporting Little Bittern Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Little Egret, Great White Egret, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill and Ruddy Shelduck. Three species of terns also occur here. Globally threatened Pygmy Cormorant and Red-breasted Goose winter in the Reserve, and the wintering populations of White-fronted Goose, Greylag Goose and Fieldfare are also notable.

In total the property provides critical habitat that supports 173 bird species, 78 species of which are of European conservation concern, and nine being listed as globally threatened.

Integrity

The property includes the largest lake left after drainage of the marshy zone along the Danube and was connected to the river until a dyke was built in 1949. Its current situation is therefore not completely natural and is maintained by water management measures. In 1994 a channel was constructed between the lake and the Danube river in order to ensure the annual flow of Danube waters into the lake during the spring months. The Reserve is a strictly protected area, and only carefully-controlled scientific research, and conservation management activities are allowed to take place within it. The site is relatively small, and only if other areas are also protected, in the region and on bird migration routes, can the key species of Srebarna Nature Reserve be expected to survive.

The property is protected by a 673 ha buffer zone which was created in 2008. This consists of a portion of the Srebarna Nature Reserve that is not part of the World Heritage property and 419 ha of land surrounding the Srebarna Nature Reserve, which is located within an adjacent protected area known as Pelikanite. The aim of this buffer zone is to prevent and reduce negative human impacts on the reserve.

Protection and management requirements

Srebarna Lake was the first wetland in Bulgaria to receive legal protection status and also the first to achieve international recognition. The lake was designated as reserve in 1948 to protect the diversity of birds it hosts. According to the 1998 law dealing with protected areas in Bulgaria, the property is classified as a "Managed Reserve", being exclusively State property. Management and control are carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional departments. The reserve falls under the jurisdiction of the Regional Inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Russe. Besides its inclusion on the World Heritage List, Srebarna Lake is also protected as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In 1989 the lake was designated as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. Its values are also recognised and protected at the European level. The property is also included in two Natura 2000 sites: the Srebarna Special Protection Area and Ludogorie-Srebarna Special Area of Conservation.

The property requires active management, and a management plan needs to be maintained and updated to guide this work. Key objectives of the management plan are conservation management for the protection of its breeding bird populations, and the continued function of the property as a stopover site for migratory birds. Specific regimes are in place for a number of different zones in the reserve, according to their conservation value. Key management requirements for the lake are to maintain and restore its water system to as natural a state as possible. Vegetation management is also needed to optimize the conservation value of the property to birds. Control of human use and the active prevention of poaching and illegal fishing are also required on an ongoing basis. Monitoring of activities to ensure management plan implementation is required in relation to the achievement of clear targets that should be defined and updated in the management plan.

Protection of the values of the property also relies on measures outside its boundaries. The buffer zone of the property is important in preventing the introduction of non-local plant or animal species, pollution from domestic, industrial or other types of waste, hunting during bird nesting and breeding periods, burning of reeds, and other activities that could

disturb the nesting and breeding bird colonies. Some of these issues also require measures beyond the defined buffer zone of the property. The linkage of the property with other reserves on the Romanian side of the Danube, and within the wider Western Palaearctic migratory flyway, would also enhance its integrity and the protection of its natural values.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(x)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Srebarna Nature Reserve protects an important example of a type of wetland that was widespread in Bulgaria in the past. It shelters a diversity of plant and animal species, which are increasingly threatened. The wetland is an important breeding, staging and wintering site for a large number of birds. Floating reedbed islands and flooded willow woodlands provide important bird breeding areas. In the lake's northern end the reedbeds gradually give way to wet meadows. In the north-western end of the lake and along the Danube there are belts of riverine forest with single old trees of White Willow.

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

we do not consider that the SOUV should be revised

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

| | Name | Impact | | | | | | Origin |
|---------------|--|-----------|----------|----------|--------|---------|--|--------|
| 3.1 | Buildings and Development | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.5 | Interpretative and visitation facilities | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | Transportation Infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.1 | Ground transport infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.4 | Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.3 | Services Infrastructures | | | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 | Water infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.4 | Pollution | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.2 | Ground water pollution | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.3 | Surface water pollution | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.4 | Air pollution | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.5 | Solid waste | | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Biological resource use/modification | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.1 | Fishing/collecting aquatic resources | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.3 | Land conversion | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.4 | Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.8 | Commercial hunting | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.10 | Forestry /wood production | | | | | | | |
| 3.6 | Physical resource extraction | | | | | | | |
| 3.6.2 | Quarrying | | | | | | | |
| 3.6.4 | Water (extraction) | | | | | | | |
| 3.8 | Social/cultural uses of heritage | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.5 | Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community | | | | | | | |
| 3.9 | Other human activities | | | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 | Illegal activities | | | | | | | |
| 3.9.2 | Deliberate destruction of heritage | | | | | | | |
| 3.10 | Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | | | |
| 3.10.1 | Storms | | | | | | | |
| 3.10.2 | Flooding | | | | | | | |
| 3.10.3 | Drought | | | | | | | |
| 3.10.6 | Temperature change | | | | | | | |
| 3.11 | Sudden ecological or geological events | | | | | | | |
| 3.11.4 | Avalanche/ landslide | | | | | | | |
| 3.11.5 | Erosion and siltation/ deposition | | | | | | | |
| 3.11.6 | Fire (wildfires) | | | | | | | |
| 3.12 | Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | | | | |
| 3.12.1 | Translocated species | | | | | | | |
| 3.12.2 | Invasive/alien terrestrial species | | | | | | | |
| 3.12.3 | Invasive / alien freshwater species | | | | | | | |
| 3.13 | Management and institutional factors | | | | | | | |
| 3.13.1 | Low impact research / monitoring activities | | | | | | | |
| 3.13.3 | Management activities | | | | | | | |
| Legend | Current | Potential | Negative | Positive | Inside | Outside | | |

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

| | Spatial scale | Temporal scale | Impact | Management response | Trend |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 3.1 Buildings and Development | | | | | |
| 3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.2 Transportation Infrastructure | | | | | |
| 3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure | restricted | on-going | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure | localised | on-going | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.3 Services Infrastructures | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 Water infrastructure | widespread | on-going | significant | medium capacity | static |
| 3.4 Pollution | | | | | |
| 3.4.5 Solid waste | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | medium capacity | decreasing |
| 3.5 Biological resource use/modification | | | | | |
| 3.5.1 Fishing/collecting aquatic resources | localised | frequent | minor | low capacity | static |
| 3.5.3 Land conversion | localised | intermittent or sporadic | minor | low capacity | static |
| 3.5.8 Commercial hunting | localised | frequent | minor | low capacity | static |
| 3.5.10 Forestry /wood production | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.6 Physical resource extraction | | | | | |
| 3.6.2 Quarrying | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.9 Other human activities | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 Illegal activities | extensive | frequent | minor | low capacity | static |
| 3.10 Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | |
| 3.10.6 Temperature change | widespread | on-going | significant | no capacity and / or resources | increasing |
| 3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events | | | | | |
| 3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition | extensive | frequent | significant | low capacity | static |
| 3.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | | |
| 3.12.1 Translocated species | restricted | on-going | insignificant | medium capacity | decreasing |
| 3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species | localised | on-going | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.13 Management and institutional factors | | | | | |
| 3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | high capacity | static |

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

Comment on question 3.5.8 - Commercial hunting is practiced by local residents under the national Hunting and Game Protection Act outside the WHP and its buffer zone. Some of the inhabitant species of the WHP are not protected and are subject to hunting which influences negatively their populations. Practiced under the legal limitations hunting doesn't affect significantly the WH attributes as shooting quotes are enforced. A concern is the increasing number of hunters.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property **do not limit** the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value **but they could be improved**

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but **are not known by local residents / communities/landowners**.

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

The World Heritage site is also a Managed Reserve according to the national legislation - Protected Areas Act with adjoining buffer zone. The protective regimes and restrictions over the activities within their boundaries are well known to all locals. The borders of the Managed Reserve and its buffer zone encompass the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Srebarna Lake was the first wetland in Bulgaria to receive legal protection status and also the first to achieve international recognition. The lake was designated as reserve in 1948 to protect the diversity of birds it hosts. According to the 1998 law dealing with protected areas in Bulgaria, the property is classified as a "Managed Reserve", being exclusively State property. Management and control are carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional departments. The reserve falls under the jurisdiction of the Regional Inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Russe. Besides its inclusion on the World Heritage List, Srebarna Lake is also protected as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In 1989 the lake was designated as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. Its values are also recognised and protected at the European level. The property is also included in two Natura 2000 sites: the Srebarna Special Protection Area and Ludogorie-Srebarna Special Area of Conservation.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

Source: [Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 \(2001-2006\)](#)

Submitted on Monday, November 28, 2005

• Question 6.02

The Protected Areas Act regulates all issues related with the designation, changes in the area, management and control of protected areas in Bulgaria, introducing specific prohibitions for each category of protection. Being a protected area, the Srebarna Lake also falls within the regulations of this act.

As already mentioned, in 1948, the Srebarna Lake was designated as a protected area in the "Reserve" category according to the nature-protection legislation that was in force at the time. In 1999, after the entry into force of Protected areas Act and new protection categories were introduced, the site was recategorized into the "Managed Reserve" category, thereby admitting management, regulation, and restoration activities in it, determined by the Management Plan. <>Moreover, the Protected Areas Act requires the elaboration of Management Plans for the protected areas which are "Managed Reserve". Implementing this regulation, a Management Plan for the site was prepared, which provides zoning of the territory and sets up specific regimes for the use of each of these zones, according to their conservation value.

The zoning of the territory is available in the Management plan **Zone A (reserve core)**

Functional destination: preservation of the natural state of the habitats of the plants and animals inhabiting it, providing normal conditions for reproduction, feeding, and stay for the birds during their reproductive, migration, and wintering period.

In Zone A it is prohibited:

To organize visits with educational or educational-tourist purpose.

Zone B

Functional destination: preservation of the natural state of the habitats of the plants and animals inhabiting it, providing normal conditions for reproduction, nourishment, and stay for the birds during their reproductive, migration, and wintering period. Its supplementing destination is to prevent the reserve's core, to mitigate and restrict the negative effect on it.

In this zone, it is allowed to organize visits with educational purpose along specific paths and water routes.

Zone C

Functional destination: providing for and ensuring the preservation of the permanent nestling colonies of pelicans, big cormorants, as well as the annually migrating colonies of herons, bright ibises, spoonbills, etc.

In Zone C it is prohibited:

1. To enter with educational purposes.

2. To enter during the reproductive period, except, for the visits, as follows:

- with scientific purpose (collecting samples, monitoring and fixing rings on young species under the terms of Arts.17(3) and 28 of the Protected areas Act) 1-2 times in a season, with maximum stay up to 1 hour under sunny weather at noon. The ring-fixing is carried out only under the direction of a professional ornithologist with length of service over 3 years. The type and nature of the collected scientific materials and the data for the birds on which rings were fixed are reported in the "Diary for Visits to Zones A and C".
- after natural disasters and elements, after strong cold spells, after mass intoxications, after crude violations of the zone's regime and other incidental cases. The performed activities and observations and the identified damages are reported in a Protocol of Findings.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

comments on question 4.2.4 - An efficient management of the Property and its buffer zone are ensured by the existing legislation. As for the surrounding territories, there are still forestry and agricultural practices that cause some problems and can not be properly managed within the existing legislation.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

According to the Protected Areas Act, the management and control of the activities in protected areas are carried out entirely by the Ministry of Environment and Waters (MEW) and its regional structures. The regional structures of the MEW are the so-called Regional Inspectorates of Environment and

Waters. The Srebarna Managed Reserve is under the authority of the RIEW for the Town of Russe. In 1993, the Administration of the Srebarna Managed Reserve was established as a unit of the RIEW for the Town of Russe. The Administration includes an expert and four security guards. The property requires active management, and a management plan needs to be maintained and updated to guide this work. Keys objectives of the management plan are conservation management for the protection of its breeding bird populations, and the continued function of the property as a stopover site for migratory birds. Specific regimes are in place for a number of different zones in the reserve, according to their conservation value. Key management requirements for the lake are to maintain and restore its water system to as natural a state as possible. Vegetation management is also needed to optimize the conservation value of the property to birds. Control of human use and the active prevention of poaching and illegal fishing are also required on an ongoing basis. Monitoring of activities to ensure management plan implementation is required in relation to the achievement of clear targets that should be defined and updated in the management plan.

Protection of the values of the property also relies on measures outside its boundaries. The buffer zone of the property is important in preventing the introduction of non-local plant or animal species, pollution from domestic, industrial or other types of waste, hunting during bird nesting and breeding periods, burning of reeds, and other activities that could disturb the nesting and breeding bird colonies. Some of these issues also require measures beyond the defined buffer zone of the property. The linkage of the property with other reserves on the Romanian side of the Danube, and within the wider Western Palaearctic migratory flyway, would also enhance its integrity and the protection of its natural values.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

Source: [Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 \(2001-2006\)](#)

Submitted on Monday, November 28, 2005

• **Question 5.02**

Steering group or similar management committee has been set up to guide the management of the site

• **Question 5.03**

Set up date: 1977

Function:

The Regional inspectorate of environment and water (RIEW) – for the town of Russe and the Administration of the Srebarna Managed Reserve under the RIEW - Russe provide:

- Management of the protected area and WHsite;
- Assign the implementation of management, regulation and restoration activities;
- Exercise control on the activities performed by other organizations, institutions, or private persons;
- Organize the Managed Reserve's guard.

Mandate: permanent

Constituted: legal

• **Question 5.04** Plans in place to set up a "steering group:

There is no special steering group established with the only purpose to manage nothing but the World Heritage Property. According to the Protected Areas Act, the management and control of the activities in protected areas, which are exclusive state ownership, as is the case of the Srebarna Managed Reserve, are carried out entirely by the Ministry of Environment and Waters (MEW) and its regional structures. The regional structures of the MEW are the so-called Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Waters. There are 15 RIEWs in Bulgaria, each of them in charge of the protected areas falling within its territorial scope. The Srebarna Managed Reserve is under the authority of the RIEW for the Town of Russe. In 1993, the Administration of the Srebarna Managed Reserve was established as a unit of the RIEW for the Town of Russe. The Administration includes an expert and four security guards.

Question 5.05


Overall management system of the site

- Management by the State Party
- Management under protective legislation

Comment

Currently, the administration of the Property consists of one expert and two guards, working at the Property.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

| Title | Status | Available | Date | Link to source |
|--|--------|-----------|------------|---|
| Management Plan for the Srebarna Managed Nature Reserv | N/A | Available | 01/01/2001 |  |

Comment

The link to the Management Plan for the Srebarna Managed Nature Reserve is:
http://srebarnalake.com/images/docs/Plan_upravlenie_Srebar na_MP.pdf

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property **but it could be improved**

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Local communities / residents | Fair |
| Local / Municipal authorities | Good |
| Indigenous peoples | Not applicable |
| Landowners | Not applicable |
| Visitors | Good |

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Researchers | Good |
| Tourism industry | Fair |
| Industry | Poor |

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No indigenous peoples are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

4.3.7.4. The property is exclusively state owned according to the Constitution and the national legislation. There are no private landowners. Private owners exist in the buffer zone and surrounding areas. 4.3.7.8. The legislation do not allow manufacturing and industrial activities to be carried out in the managed reserve. Forestry, agriculture, hunting and tourism can be developed in the buffer zone and the surrounding territories by following of the requirements of the national legislation

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

There are no changes in the legal status of the Property and its buffer zone according to the national legislation. A buffer zone of the WHP was determined with decision of the WHC from 2008. The buffer zone encompasses part of the managed reserve and a protected site "Pelikanite" - the ex buffer zone of the managed reserve. Currently, a new management plan is being developed and it will address the weak points in the management, registered in the application of the previous management plan.

4.4. Financial and Human Resources





4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc) | |
| International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc) | |
| Governmental (National / Federal) | 50% |

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| | |
|---|-----|
| Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State) | |
| Governmental (Local / Municipal) | |
| In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc) | |
| Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.) | |
| Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.) | |
| Other grants | 50% |

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

| Title | Year | Amount | Link to source |
|--|------|----------|---|
| Training workshop in Srebarna Nature Reserve | 1994 | 14000.00 |  |
| Purchase of equipment for the measurement and monitoring of water-levels and water quality at Srebarna | 1994 | 19000.00 |  |
| Assistance to the renovation of the exposition of the museum and the scientific observation places, celebration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the reserve | 1998 | 0.00 |  |
| Training workshop on "Srebarna Nature Reserve - core site of the European Ecological Network" (22-25 April 1999) | 1999 | 8000.00 |  |
| Total | | 41000 | |

Comment

In 2005 the World Heritage fund provided funding for purchase of an electric motor saw for cutting of reed, as well as for cleaning of the channel connecting the lake with Danube river from reed and other vegetation and also for elaboration of a project for removing of sediments from the channel.

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

4.4.1.9. These are funds ensured by Operational Program Environment (European Regional fund) - Priority axis 3 - Conservation of Biodiversity. The Regional inspectorate of environment and waters for the town of Russe is beneficiary to

Section II-Srebarna Nature Reserve

this Program and has already implemented several projects related to the Property with funding from this source. 4.4.4.2- The funds ensured by EU are for a concrete period and can be stopped by Brussels in case of procedural obstacles and delays.

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Full-time | 100% |
| Part-time | |

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Permanent | 100% |
| Seasonal | |

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Paid | 100% |
| Volunteer | |

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Research and monitoring | Good |
| Promotion | Fair |
| Community outreach | Fair |
| Interpretation | Fair |
| Education | Fair |
| Visitor management | Fair |
| Conservation | Good |
| Administration | Fair |
| Risk preparedness | Fair |
| Tourism | Fair |
| Enforcement (custodians, police) | Fair |

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Research and monitoring | Medium |
| Promotion | Medium |
| Community outreach | Medium |
| Interpretation | Medium |
| Education | Medium |
| Visitor management | Medium |
| Conservation | High |
| Administration | High |
| Risk preparedness | Medium |
| Tourism | Medium |
| Enforcement (custodians, police) | Medium |

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being

transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

comment on question 4.4.11. - the Managed reserve management is supported by experts and staff from local NGOs in the activities related to Pelicanus crispus colony. 4.4.15. There is no special capacity development plan or program developed, but in the management plan such activities, aimed at capacity building of the staff, are foreseen. Most technical activities are being assigned to external staff after carrying out of the required tender procedures.

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

The World Heritage property has been subject to many researches and publications. The above are on different themes and from different scope, but in most cases are in Bulgarian language and are not available on the webpage of the Regional inspectorate of environment and waters for the town of Russe.

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

Comment on question 4.5.3 - Research results are usually available on demand and published in scientific periodicals but are not shared on a broad public level.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Local communities / residents | Average |
| Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property | Excellent |
| Local Indigenous peoples | Not applicable |
| Local landowners | Not applicable |
| Visitors | Excellent |
| Tourism industry | Average |
| Local businesses and industries | Poor |

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Visitor centre | Adequate |
| Site museum | Adequate |
| Information booths | Not needed |
| Guided tours | Not needed |
| Trails / routes | Excellent |
| Information materials | Excellent |
| Transportation facilities | Poor |
| Other | Not needed |

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

4.6.6.1.and 4.6.6.2 - The Nature museum in the village of Srebarna, neighbouring the Property, acts also as Visitor center. Besides, the permanent museum exhibition, there is also a video hall, special room for conferences and events and all the attributes of a visitor center. The Nature museum is newly refurbished and equipped as a result of the realization of a project funded by EU.

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Last year | Minor Increase |
| Two years ago | Minor Increase |
| Three years ago | Static |
| Four years ago | Static |
| Five years ago | Static |

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

| |
|-------|
| Other |
|-------|

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

In the management plan - MP of the Property there is a special part, dealing with visitor management, which sets requirements and regulates the visits at the place. The MP determines the special routes, the number of visitors, the places where watching towers, information boards, fireplaces and other facilities can be installed in order to provide good service to visitors and avoid disturbance of birds. There are tourism development strategies adopted at national and regional level also.

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

No fees are collected

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

4.7.2.6. - The Nature museum in the village of Srebarna keeps account on the number of visitors by selling tickets for the visits. 4.7.4. - The Management Plan of the Property addresses the tourist management as well. 4.7.5. - The Property is remote. The tourism industry is not active in the area closely surrounding the Property. Tourism can not be developed within the Property which is Managed reserve according to the national legislation and with quite strict protection.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

| | |
|--|----------------|
| World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff | Excellent |
| Local / Municipal authorities | Non-existent |
| Local communities | Non-existent |
| Researchers | Excellent |
| NGOs | Average |
| Industry | Non-existent |
| Local indigenous peoples | Not applicable |

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **complete**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

4.8.4. - The Property used to be inscribed in the Endangered list for more than 10 years. In that period, the State Party undertook many activities in response to the recommendations in the World Heritage Committee decisions related to establishment of a monitoring system, provision of particular conservation measures, which eventually brought to improvement of the conservation status.

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

Comment on question 4.8.2 - A project is being implemented with measures addressing the improvement of monitoring of key indicators.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

| | World Heritage criteria and attributes affected | Actions | Monitoring | Timeframe | Lead agency (and others involved) | More info / comment | |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 3.3 | Services Infrastructures | | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 | Water infrastructure | Water level and quality in lake depend on the circulation between Danube river and the lake. Water Infrastructure needs to be constructed and managed in a way to favour the proper water conditions. So far the criteria for OUV has not been affected. | The new Management Plan currently under development is going to assess the influence of the water infrastructure and suggest adequate measures mandatory for implementation. | There is constant monitoring of the water level in the lake. Since the water level and the quality of the lake depend on the water level in Danube river, there is permanent monitoring of the water level in the river as well. | New Management Plan to be completed and adopted by the end of 2015. | Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Russe (RIEW - Russe). | There are dikes that prevent sufficient water circulation between the lake and the river. Their influence needs to be assessed. To improve circulation a channel connecting the lake and the river was built and there are locks for control of the flow |
| 3.5 | Biological resource use/modification | | | | | | |
| 3.5.8 | Commercial hunting | Some of the bird inhabitants of the WHP, especially some migrating species, are not protected and are subject to hunting. Hunting might have negative influence on their populations. So far, the criteria for OUV has not been affected. | CH could be carried out in the buffer and surrounding territories by following the Hunting and Game Protection Act. The RIEW-Rosse requested the competent authorities not to issue or reduce the permits for the buffer and surrounding territories also. | The number of the legally shot animals is being regularly recorded in compliance with the requirements of the Hunting and Game Protection Act. | Hunting and Game Protection Act is applied permanently. The control over its implementation is also permanent. RIEW-Rosse tries to reduce and minimize this type of hunting in the buffer zone and surrounding territories. No time frame to be pointed. | The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is in charge of the implementation of the Hunting and game protection Act. RIEW - Russe provides the control over the implementation of the Act in the property and buffer zone. | Commercial hunting is practiced by local residents in the area surrounding the WHP and its buffer zone under the Hunting and Game Protection Act. There are quotes for shooting. The grow of the number of hunters would be a concern. |
| 3.9 | Other human activities | | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 | Illegal activities | The illegal activities concerning the property include mainly poaching. The poaching is a threat mainly for the species of birds and fish within the WHP and its buffer zone. So far the criteria for OUV has not been affected. | The guards are working on shifts at daylight time. The working shifts should cover 24 hour period. The issue will be addressed during the management plan preparation. Video observation of the property will be ensured under a project funded by EU. | Monitoring is conducted by confiscation of illegal fishing equipment and thus the scale of illegal fishing is determined. There is no way to monitor the illegal hunting. The video observation to be provided will allow better monitoring and control. | The new management plan is expected to be elaborated and adopted till the end of 2015. No time frame is determined for the optimization of the number of the guards in charge. | Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Russe - RIEW Russe | There are two security guards and 1 expert at the property who provide the control and impose sanctions in case of violations. The guards are working on shifts and cover only daylight time. Video observation will be possible from the Property and RIEW |
| 3.10 | Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | | |
| 3.10.6 | Temperature change | The temperature change might affect the living conditions in the ecosystem and thus influence badly the populations of plant and animal inhabitants. So far the criteria for OUV has not been affected. | The issue will be addressed during the preparation of the new management plan and appropriate measures will be envisaged. Data collected and analyzed by the Hydrological institute of the Bulgarian Academy of sciences will be used as well. | Data about the changes in temperature are permanently collected and analyzed by the Hydrological institute of the Bulgarian Academy of sciences. Constant records of temperature are taken also by RIEW - Russe. | The new management plan is expected to be elaborated and adopted till the end of 2015 | The Regional inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Rosse (RIEW - Russe). Hydrological institute of the Bulgarian Academy of sciences. | Temperature change leads to change in ecosystem conditions and thus might deteriorate its state of conservation. |
| 3.11 | Sudden ecological or geological events | | | | | | |
| 3.11.5 | Erosion and siltation/ deposition | The erosion and subsequent siltation/deposition constitute a concern because they contribute to the faster eutrophication and thus might badly influence the ecosystem. So far, the OUV criteria has been affected. | 2 projects were carried out by RIEW-Rosse which applied anti erosion measures, i.e. strengthening of the terrain with bushes, construction of wooden fences, etc. The new management plan will also address the issue and suggest particular measures. | Monitoring is carried out by the Regional inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Rosse (RIEW - Rosse) and scientific organizations under research programs. | The new management plan is expected to be adopted till the end of 2015. | Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Russe, Ministry of Environment and Water | Deceleration of siltation/deposition could be further contributed by better water circulation between the lake and the river. To be addressed in the Management Plan. |
| 3.12 | Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | | | |

| | | World Heritage criteria and attributes affected | Actions | Monitoring | Timeframe | Lead agency (and others involved) | More info / comment |
|--------|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 3.12.2 | Invasive/alien terrestrial species | The invasive species presented at the Property and its buffer zone are mainly plants. Some of them have the potential to supplant some of the local species and thus create dis-balance in the ecosystem. So far, the OUV criteria has not been affected. | A project which to limit the spread of invasive species was carried out. Within the researches were defined the concrete plant invasive species and the measures against them. A methodology was elaborated and some of the measures implemented. | There is specialized monitoring of the results of the implemented project. The monitoring is provided by RIEW Russe and scientific institutions. | A project was completed an year ago. The monitoring over the results is permanent. | Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Russe, Executive Environmental Agency and the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem researches (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). | At the present, the spread of invasive species does not constitute a serious threat. The situation is considered to be under control. |

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

| 4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | Actions | Timeframe | Lead agency (and others involved) | More info / comment | |
| 4.1.5 | The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities/landowners | | Within a project, funded by EU, a 3D scale model of the property and buffer zone was elaborated and exposed in RIEW-Rosse and the Municipality. The buffer zone will be communicated during information campaigns and by information boards also. | The project, envisaging information provision, will be finalized in 2015. Public hearings for the management plan, will be carried out in 2014 and 2015. | Regional inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Rosse | The buffer zone was established with a decision of the WHC in 2008. The buffer zone needs and will be further communicated during the public hearings to be held in the process of preparation of new management plan for the Property. | |

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Conservation | Very positive |
| Research and monitoring | Very positive |
| Management effectiveness | Positive |
| Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples | Positive |
| Recognition | Very positive |
| Education | Positive |
| Infrastructure development | Positive |
| Funding for the property | Positive |
| International cooperation | Positive |
| Political support for conservation | Very positive |
| Legal / Policy framework | Very positive |
| Lobbying | No impact |
| Institutional coordination | Positive |
| Security | Positive |
| Other (please specify) | Not applicable |

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

The World heritage status and the fact that the property is a Managed reserve and exclusively state ownership is of crucial importance for its preservation and management. The State party has enforced adequate legislation which to ensure the proper management and the preservation of the attributes of OUV. The World heritage status has affected positively most of the pointed areas.

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

| |
|---|
| Governmental institution responsible for the property |
|---|

| |
|--|
| Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff |
| External experts |

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

The questionnaire is to some extent generalized and does not allow description of specificity of issues related to the World Heritage Property. Therefore the automated determination of threats and management needs does not reflect specific considerations that could be of high importance. There is too little space for comments and explanations.

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| UNESCO | Very good |
| State Party Representative | Very good |
| Advisory Body | Very good |

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

| |
|---|
| The World Heritage Convention |
| The concept of Outstanding Universal Value |
| The property's Outstanding Universal Value |
| The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity |
| The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity |
| Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value |
| Monitoring and reporting |
| Management effectiveness |

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| UNESCO | Satisfactory |
| State Party | Satisfactory |
| Site Managers | Satisfactory |
| Advisory Bodies | Satisfactory |

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

Automatically generated in online version

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise