

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Pirin National Park

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Bulgaria

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

225bis

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983, 2010

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Pirin National Park	41.743 / 23.43	38350.04	1078.28	39428.32	1983
Total (ha)		38350.04	1078.28	39428.32	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Pirin National Park Management Plan, scale 1 cm = 1 Km 1:100,000	01/09/2004	
Map of inscribed property	28/01/2009	

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

Ministry of Environment and Water STANISLAV ANASTASOV
Minister 22 Maria Louiza Blvd. Bulgaria 1000 Sofia Bulgaria
Fax: +359 2 986 25 33 Email: ek@moev.government.bg
The name of the current minister of culture is Mr. Petar Stoyanovich. We propose the Ministry of culture to be removed from this periodic report since it is not the institution in charge of the management of the property.

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Elena Topuzova
Pirin National Park Directorate
Senior expert Expert in GIS, Directorate "Biodiversity, plans, programs and projects"

Comment

Mrs. Elena Topuzova is the expert coordinating the implementation of the Convention at the Property. We propose

the name and the details of the Director of the Institution also to be pointed here, as follows: Mr.Rosen Banenski Director of Pirin National Park Directorate 2770 Town of Bansko, "Bulgaria" Str.N4, Bulgaria Telephone: 00359 0888 799911 Fax: 35974988202 Email: r_banenski@abv.bg We also propose the following information "2770 Bansko" to be excluded since it is mentioned twice.

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
2. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

Comment

The official web address of the Property is: www.pirin.bg

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

Comment

The value of Pirin NP as a territory of high conservation importance was confirmed by its identification as a CORINE Site -1998.The site is part of Natura 2000 network - 2008.Pirin was designated as an Important Bird Area that will allow the long-term preservation of threatened bird species in their natural habitats - 2005.Pirin NP was inscribed as one of the 114 Important Plant Areas of Bulgaria - 2003. In 1977 Bauyvi Dupki-Dzindziritsa Reserve was designated as Biosphere reserve under the MAB

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The World Heritage property covers an area of around 40,000 ha in the Pirin Mountains, southwest Bulgaria, and overlaps with the undeveloped areas of Pirin National Park. The diverse limestone mountain landscapes of the property include over 70 glacial lakes and a range of glacial landforms, with many waterfalls, rocky screes and caves. Forests are dominated by conifers, and the higher areas harbour alpine meadows below the summits. The property includes a range of endemic and relict species that are representative of the Balkan Pleistocene flora.

Criterion (vii): The mountain scenery of Pirin National Park is of exceptional beauty. The high mountain peaks and crags contrast with meadows, rivers and waterfalls and provide the opportunity to experience the aesthetics of a Balkan mountain landscape. The ability to experience remoteness and naturalness is an important attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Criterion (viii): The principal earth science values of the property relate to its glacial geomorphology, demonstrated through a range of features including cirques, deep valleys and over 70 glacial lakes. The mountains of the property show a variety of forms and have been developed in several different rock types. Functioning natural processes allow for study of the continued evolution of the landforms of the property, and help to understand other upland areas in the region.

Criterion (ix): The property is a good example of the continuing evolution of flora, as evidenced by a number of endemic and relict species, and the property also protects an example of a functioning ecosystem that is representative of

the important natural ecosystems of the Balkan uplands. Pirin's natural coniferous forests include Macedonian Pine and Bosnian Pine, with many old growth trees. In total, there are 1,315 species of vascular plants, about one third of Bulgaria's flora, including 86 Balkan endemics, 17 Bulgarian endemics and 18 local endemics. The fauna of Pirin National Park includes 45 mammal species, including brown bear, wolf and pine marten, and 159 bird species. Pirin is also home to eight species of amphibians, eleven species of reptiles and six fish species. Although the forests are affected by some historical use, the natural functioning of the ecosystem ensures the protection of its regionally significant biodiversity values.

Integrity

The original inscription of the property in 1983 proved to be inadequate in representing and maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of Pirin, but an extension in 2010 has addressed the issues to the best possible degree and represents the minimum area of Pirin National Park that can be considered to correspond to the requirements of Outstanding Universal Value set out in the World Heritage Convention.

The National Park is clearly defined from the point of view of its mountainous nature and ecology, and the boundaries of the property are of sufficient size to capture the natural values of Pirin. Adequate boundaries have been established through the extension of the initially inscribed property, to include the most remote areas of the interior of the National Park, and exclude adjacent areas that are not compatible with World Heritage status due to impacts on integrity from ski development. The values of the property as extended retain the attributes of a natural landscape but they closely adjoin areas subject to intensive tourism development that are a risk to the integrity of the property.

Protection and management requirements

The property is covered by national legislation which should ensure strong national protection of the values of the property, including the prevention of encroachment from adjoining development. It is essential that this legislation is rigorously enforced and is respected by all levels of government that have responsibilities in the area. The property also has an effective and functioning management plan, provided its implementation can be ensured through adequate resources to both maintain the necessary staffing levels and undertake the necessary management activities to protect and manage the property. A system of regular monitoring of the natural values of Pirin and ongoing programmes to maintain habitats and landforms in their natural state, avoid disturbance and other impacts on wildlife, and to preserve the aesthetic values of the property are required.

The World Heritage property has long been subject to tourism pressure, largely caused by the development of ski facilities and ski runs. Small ski areas were developed at Bansko, Dobrinishte and Kulinoto in the 1980s and 1990s. Activities such as night skiing, off-piste skiing and heliskiing are activities which may affect the values and integrity of the property and require rigorous control. Bansko, adjoining the property, has become one of the most rapidly developing towns in Bulgaria with hotels and holiday resorts constructed literally on the park boundary. Tourism development within and around the property has not been effectively controlled in the past including some areas that were developed within the property and caused significant damage. The management plan for the property needs to ensure a long-term priority for the protection of the natural values of Pirin, and to guard against any encroachments and impacts within the property from skiing, sporting events or other inappropriate development. Equally the planning documents that are created by national, regional and local authorities need to similarly ensure the protection of the natural values of the

property, and also integrate the benefits it provides as a natural landscape to the surrounding area.

Other threats to the property include illegal logging, poaching and the use of snow mobiles and quad bikes. These uses require close monitoring, management and the enforcement of effective regulations. The management of visitor use to both prevent negative impacts and provide opportunities to experience the values of the property in a sustainable way is also an essential long term requirement for this property.

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

(vii)(viii)(ix)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Criterion (vii): The mountain scenery of Pirin National Park is of exceptional beauty. The high mountain peaks and crags contrast with meadows, rivers and waterfalls and provide the opportunity to experience the aesthetics of a Balkan mountain landscape. The ability to experience remoteness and naturalness is an important attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Criterion (viii): The principal earth science values of the property relate to its glacial geomorphology, demonstrated through a range of features including cirques, deep valleys and over 70 glacial lakes. The mountains of the property show a variety of forms and have been developed in several different rock types. Functioning natural processes allow for study of the continued evolution of the landforms of the property, and help to understand other upland areas in the region. Criterion (ix): The property is a good example of the continuing evolution of flora, as evidenced by a number of endemic and relict species, and the property also protects an example of a functioning ecosystem that is representative of the important natural ecosystems of the Balkan uplands. Pirin's natural coniferous forests include Macedonian Pine and Bosnian Pine, with many old growth trees. In total, there are 1,315 species of vascular plants, about one third of Bulgaria's flora, including 86 Balkan endemics, 17 Bulgarian endemics and 18 local endemics. The fauna of Pirin National Park includes 45 mammal species, including brown bear, wolf and pine marten, and 159 bird species. Pirin is also home to eight species of amphibians, eleven species of reptiles and six fish species. Although the forests are affected by some historical use, the natural functioning of the ecosystem ensures the protection of its regionally significant biodiversity values.

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

We do not find any need to change the SOUV.

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

We consider that the current Statement of OUV reflects properly the outstanding universal value of the Property. At the present activities such as illegal logging and poaching are not considered as problematic for the Property. There is a stable trend towards diminishing the number of these violations within the National Park.

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							
3.1.1	Housing							
3.1.4	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure							
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							
3.3.4	Localised utilities							
3.3.5	Major linear utilities							
3.4	Pollution							
3.4.5	Solid waste							
3.5	Biological resource use/modification							
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources							
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals							
3.5.6	Commercial wild plant collection							
3.5.7	Subsistence wild plant collection							
3.5.10	Forestry /wood production							
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric							
3.7.7	Pests							
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage							
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses							
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage							
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community							
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation							
3.9	Other human activities							
3.9.1	Illegal activities							
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage							
3.9.6	Civil unrest							
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							
3.11.2	Earthquake							
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							
3.12.3	Invasive / alien freshwater species							
3.13	Management and institutional factors							
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities							

Name		Impact		Origin	
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						
3.1.1	Housing	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	high capacity	static
3.1.4	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	high capacity	static
3.2 Transportation Infrastructure						
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.3 Services Infrastructures						
3.3.1	Water infrastructure	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.3.4	Localised utilities	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.4 Pollution						
3.4.5	Solid waste	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.5 Biological resource use/modification						
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.5.6	Commercial wild plant collection	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.5.7	Subsistence wild plant collection	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.7	Pests	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage						
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	localised	frequent	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.9 Other human activities						
3.9.1	Illegal activities	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.9.6	Civil unrest	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.10 Climate change and severe weather events						
3.10.1	Storms	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.10.2	Flooding	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.10.6	Temperature change	widespread	on-going	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.4	Avalanche/ landslide	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species						
3.12.3	Invasive / alien freshwater species	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static

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

3.17.1 - Comments

Usually, the factors, mentioned above in item 3.10 are from natural origin, unexpected and uncontrollable. As a result of severe storms, and / or wind throws, fires also may occur. In order to prevent fires, in the Park directorate is established a fire alarm system, which operates only for one pilot territory.

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 the management authority but **are not known by 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 buffer zone of the Property was designated with a decision of the World Heritage Committee in 2010. These are two ski zones, which were initially part of the WH Property but later on were excluded from its boundaries because of being incompatible with the high standards of the Convention. Not all of the residents and the communities, neighbouring the property are aware of those changes.

4.2. Protective Measures

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

The area of the Pirin Mountains is legally protected since 1962. It was extended several times, in 1976 to 27,000 ha and

again in 1987 to its present size, 40,356 ha and renamed as Pirin National Park. By the Order # 225/09.12.1982 of UNESCO, Pirin National Park was designated as a World Heritage site with an area of 26,423,80 ha. The property is covered by national legislation which should ensure strong national protection of the values of the property, including the prevention of encroachment from adjoining development.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Thursday, December 1, 2005

• Question 6.02

The Protected Areas Act regulates all issues, related with designation, deletion, area changes, management, and control of protected areas in Bulgaria, introducing specific prohibitions, referring to each protection category. In this aspect, being a protected area, the Pirin National Park is also subject to this Act's regulations.

The Protected areas Act which entered into force in 1999 introduced a new protected area's categories, in accordance with the international norms. At the time the category of the protected area was changed and it turned to be from "Pirin People's Park" a "National Park".

Moreover, the Protected Areas Act requires preparing Management Plans for the "National Park" category. Implementing this regulation, a Management Plan for the protected area was elaborated, which suggests zoning of the territory and determines specific usage regimes for each zone, according to their conservation value. The Management Plan also regulates specific management and restoration actions.

Zone Ia – Reserve zone includes territories of the reserves Bayuvi dupki – Djindjiritza and Yulen according to the Orders for their designation. The activities that are allowed are:

- Guarding
- Life-rescuing operations
- Visits with scientific purposes
- Passing of people along the marked trails, including with education purposes
- Collecting seed material, wild plants and animals for scientific purposes or for their reintroduction at other places, in quantities, mode and time excluding the disturbance of the ecosystems
- Carrying out of sanitary activities only with the permission of the MoEW issued after receipt of a positive scientific reference of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and positive decision of the National Council on the Biological Diversity

Zone Ib – Zone of limited human impact includes territories without changed or with only slightly changed habitats with preserved natural features and processes, localities of threatened habitats of species of conservation significance. The activities that are allowed are:

- Guarding
- Life-rescuing operations
- Scientific research
- Hiking tourism only along the marked trails, including with education purposes
- Collecting seed material, wild plants and animals for scientific purposes or for their reintroduction at other places, in quantities, mode and time excluding the disturbance of the ecosystems
- Extinguishing fires and carrying out of sanitary activities in the forests, damaged as a result of natural disasters and calamities with the permission of the NPD, issued after the

approval of the Scientific Council

Zone II a – Zone of conservation of the forest ecosystems and recreation includes territories of the Pirin NP occupied by forest vegetation, including dwarf-pine. The activities that are allowed are:

- a) Guarding
- b) Life- rescuing operations
- c) Extinguishing fires and fire-safety activities according to the action plan of the NPD
- d) Maintaining the tourist trails and the safety facilities;
- e) Passing of domestic animals on trails defined by a project
- f) Scientific research;
- g) Hiking and recreation
- h) Ski-hiking only on marked trails
- i) Collecting mushrooms, herbs and wild fruits for personal needs
- j) Maintenance and restoration activities in the forests in cases of strictly proven necessity
- k) Regulating the numbers of certain animal species
- l) Angling.

Zone II b – Zone of sustainable use of open areas and recreation includes the pasture areas of the Pirin NP, traditionally related to the pasture stock-breeding and maintained by this activity. The activities that are allowed are:

- a) Guarding
- b) Life- rescuing operations
- c) Extinguishing fires and fire-safety activities according to the action plan of the NPD
- d) Maintaining the tourist trails and the safety facilities
- e) Scientific research
- f) Hiking and recreation
- g) Collecting mushrooms, herbs and wild fruits for personal needs
- h) Maintenance and restoration activities in cases of strictly proven necessity
- i) Regulating the numbers of certain animal species
- j) Stocking with Balkan Trout and angling at places, defined by the NPD
- k) Grazing of sheep, cows and horses with a permit from the NPD

Zone III – Tourism zone includes territories of the Pirin NP in the regions of Bansko and Dobrinishte with existing intensive tourist pressure and existing sports facilities. The activities that are allowed are:

- a) Guarding
- b) Life- rescuing operations
- c) Extinguishing fires and fire-safety activities according to the action plan of the NPD
- d) Waste collecting and transporting the hard refuse, coordinated with the NPD;
- e) Scientific research
- f) Hiking and recreation
- g) Specialized tourism (horse-back riding, cycling, skiing, etc.)
- h) Collecting mushrooms, herbs and wild fruits for personal needs
- i) Maintenance and restoration activities
- j) Regulating the numbers of certain animal species
- k) Stocking with Balkan Trout and angling at places, defined by the NPD
- l) Grazing of sheep, cows and horses with a permit from the NPD
- m) Sports

Zone IV - Zone of buildings and facilities includes the regions of the existing chalets, lodgings, bungalows, buildings of the Park administration, transformation stations, water catchments, openings for air electric power lines, fire-prevention openings, roads, existing ski-runs and facilities, as well as the ones that are under constructions according to the approved projects, the sites of new construction envisaged by the projects and included in the management plan, and constructions for the purposes of the National Park determined by the Plan. The zone allows the long-term use of the existing tourist resources and sports facilities with maximum preservation of the landscape qualities. All the activities regarding constructions and reconstructions of infrastructure have to be coordinated with the National Park Directorate.

The above described zoning guarantees the use, as well as the biodiversity and landscape protection of the national park.

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?

An adequate legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are **some deficiencies in implementation**

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

4.2.4. The legislation is adequate but there are some weak points in its implementation. For example, the regional planning is carried out under the Territorial development Act - TDA. According to TDA, the municipalities elaborate Master development plans, which are subject of Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate assessment. Nevertheless, for the municipalities of Bansko and Razlog, where significant

increase in the constructions evolved recently, there are no such plans developed so far

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The management of the Pirin National Park is carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW). The National Nature Protection Service (NNPS) with the Ministry plays a coordinating and controlling role related to the management of the protected areas. The Pirin National Park Directorate realizes the direct management and the implementation of the state policy. With the adoption of the Protected Areas Act in 1998 the Pirin National Park acquired a management plan. The Territorial Arrangement Plan is a tool for spatial planning. The municipality is responsible for the planning process and the municipal council approves the draft TAP and submits the plan to the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MoRDPW) and the Ministry for Environment and Water (MoEW) for legal approval. The TAP for the Bansko ski zone was completed according to the standard national process, including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and was approved and adopted in 2001.

A system of regular monitoring of the natural values of Pirin and ongoing programmes to maintain habitats and landforms in their natural state, avoid disturbance and other impacts on wildlife, and to preserve the aesthetic values of the property are required.

The World Heritage property has long been subject to tourism pressure, largely caused by the development of ski facilities and ski runs. Small ski areas were developed at Bansko, Dobrinishte and Kulinoto in the 1980s and 1990s. Activities such as night skiing, off-piste skiing and heliskiing are activities which may affect the values and integrity of the property and require rigorous control. Bansko, adjoining the property, has become one of the most rapidly developing towns in Bulgaria with hotels and holiday resorts constructed literally on the park boundary. Tourism development within and around the property has not been effectively controlled in the past including some areas that were developed within the property and caused significant damage. The management plan for the property needs to ensure a long-term priority for the protection of the natural values of Pirin, and to guard against any encroachments and impacts within the property from skiing, sporting events or other inappropriate development. Equally the planning documents that are created by national, regional and local authorities need to similarly ensure the protection of the natural values of the property, and also integrate the benefits it provides as a natural landscape to the surrounding area.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Thursday, December 1, 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: 1998

Function: There is no dedicated committee set up to guide only and nothing but the World Heritage Property. According to the Protected areas Act, the management, control, and assignment of the activities in protected areas constituting exclusive State property, as is the case with the Pirin National Park, are fully implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Waters and its regional structures such as the Pirin National Park Directorate. The main functions of the

Pirin National Park Directorate are as follows: - To manage the protected area; - To assign the implementation of management, regulating, and restoration activities; - To provide control over the activities carried out by other organizations, institutions, or private persons; - To organize the National Park's guarding.

Mandate: permanent

Constituted: legal

• Question 5.05

Overall management system of the site

- Management by the State Party
- Management under protective legislation

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Title	Status	Available	Date	Link to source
Pirin National Park Management Plan	N/A	Available	01/01/2003	

Comment

The management plan of Pirin NP can be downloaded in pdf or doc document from the web page of Pirin national park Directorate. At the present a new management plan for the Property is being elaborated within a huge project funded by Operational program Environment - EU funds. The document must be elaborated till October 2015. The present management plan will be in force till the new one is adopted by the Council of the Ministers of Bulgaria.

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	Fair
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. According to Constitution the Park is exclusively state property. There are no landowners. 4.3.7.7. There is a regular contact between the Ministry of environment and waters, Pirin National Park Directorate and the company - concessionaire of Bansko ski zone, which to ensure preservation of OUV. 4.3.7.8. No industrial activities are allowed in the NP. Ski tourism, forestry, agriculture, etc. are carried out in the buffer zone and the neighboring territories surrounding the National Park

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 is no change in the legal status of the property. According to the Constitution of Republic of Bulgaria and the specific legislation - Protected areas Act, the national parks, including Pirin NP are exclusively state property, which management is provided by the Ministry of environment and water and Pirin National Park Directorate. No industrial and activities can be carried out in the Property. A new management plan is under preparation. It is to be finished and adopted in October 2015.

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)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	47%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	0%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	0%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	0%

Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	3%
Other grants	50%

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

Comment

International assistance from the World Heritage Fund was provided in 2005 for consultant services, aimed at elaboration of a nomination for extension of the World Heritage Property. That assistance was reported about in the previous reporting exercise. Since that time, the Property has not applied for or received such assistance.

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. Pirin NP Directorate is a beneficiary of different EU programs such as Operational program "Environment", Financial Mechanism of European Economic Area, Participatory Program of UNESCO, etc. Different projects with such funding have been already accomplished or are still going on. For example a huge project with EU funding is currently implemented. It foresees management plan preparation, construction of light tourist infrastructure, information provision and restoration of habitats.

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

Full-time	100%
Part-time	0%

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

Permanent	95%
Seasonal	5%

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

Paid	98%
Volunteer	2%

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	Fair
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
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	High
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	Medium
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	Medium
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

4.4.4. The EU funds are given for certain period. They can be stopped by Brussels in case of procedural obstacles and problems. 4.4.15. There is no special capacity development plan or program developed, but in the management plan such activities, aimed at capacity building, 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

In Pirin NP Administration many publications concerning the World Heritage property are available. 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 National Park administration.

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

The National Park Directorate requires detailed information about the studies provided, as well as the achieved results and analyses made. Nevertheless, there are many cases in which the people, providing the researches do not get in contact with the Park Directorate and thus do not provide opportunity for disseminating of information and the respective results.

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	Average
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	Excellent
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Not provided but needed
Guided tours	Excellent
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Not provided but needed

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

4.6.2.1. The local people do know about the existence of the property but are not deeply understanding its exact values and particularly the attributes of OUV. 4.6.2.7 Local businesses and industries are developed outside the Property. No industrial and manufactural activities can be developed in the site. 4.6.6.7. There is a need for restoration of the existing road network in the National park.

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	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

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

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

There is no specific visitor management document of the property. In the management plan 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 information boards can be installed and other facilities, such as camping areas, fireplaces can be established in order to provide good service to visitors and ensure the preservation of site.

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. The monitoring over the tourist flow in PirinNP is performed daily by the Park rangers, and the tourism and interpretation experts by following of an adopted methodology. Data are collected in special forms and are summarized by month. Most common sources of information on the number of tourists are the tickets sold for the cable cars, the accommodation data in the chalets and the observations of the park employees. 4.7.3. There are tourism development strategies at national and regional level

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
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Local / Municipal authorities	Poor
Local communities	Poor
Researchers	Average
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 **underway**

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

The decisions of the World Heritage Committee are clear and explicit. The State party shall not allow construction of new ski runs and facilities in the WHP. The new management plan may allow further construction of ski runs and facilities, but only in the buffer zone of the World Heritage Property, determined with Decision 34 COM 8V.5 of the WHC. All the recommendations shall be considered.

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

4.8.1. There are different monitoring activities going on at the property. Unfortunately, there is not always good coordination between the main actors involved. For example the Executive Environmental Agency (Ministry of environment and water) which is the institution in charge of the monitoring that gathers most of the data, do not always provide the analyses, necessary to take management decisions

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	
3.5	Biological resource use/modification						
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals	So far, no criteria and attributes have been affected.	The Management plan allows grazing only in certain areas of the National park and determines special norms and regimes for grazing. Annual plan for grazing is developed on the basis of the state of the grasslands. Annual permits are also issued.	Every year, the Park staff monitors the state of the pastures and provides control over the number of animals per ha, presence of erosion and overgrazing, following of the conditions in the annual permits, etc.	The permits for grazing are issued every year which provides opportunities to assess the impact of the grazing on the specific areas within the park. On the basis of this assessment further measures could be applied to prevent higher loads.	Pirin National Park Directorate.	The positive impact of livestock grazing is the reduction of bushes and maintenance of the biological diversity in the highland pastures. The negative impact is related to overgrazing or the possibility for erosion.
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.7	Pests	So far, no criteria and attributes have been affected.	The park administration in cooperation with the Forestry institute have undertaken appropriate measures, aimed at restricting the distribution of the species and removal of the damaged trees, by placing of special "hunting trees" (acting as baits)	The park experts and rangers provide monitoring over the state of the forests in the National park.	The monitoring is permanent and it is a permanent duty for the administration to undertake appropriate measures in case of pests.	Pirin National Park Directorate and the Forestry institute of the Bulgarian Academy of sciences.	There is weakening of the forests located along one asphalt road which leads to Vihren challet. This is as a result of the gases, emitted by the cars and has brought to pests of ips typographus. This attack has been observed in the last 3-4 years.
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage						
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	So far, no criteria and attributes have been affected.	A Strategy for development of sustainable tourism was developed for Pirin National park and local municipalities with funding provided by the Participatory program of UNESCO. The administration regularly restores the existing tourist infrastructure.	Pirin National Park Directorate carries out annual monitoring on the number of tourists and mostly visited places in the national park. Though, there is not sufficient research on the impact of tourists on the site.	The Park administration provides permanent control and assessment over the state of the ecosystems and tourist infrastructure. When needed, the Park restricts the access to problematic areas (erosion) and restores the existing tourist infrastructure	Pirin National Park Directorate	Tourism positively affects the local economy. On the other hand, heavy tourists flows in certain areas might disturb animals, destroy plant population or cause erosion.
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events						
3.10.1	Storms	So far, no criteria or attributes have been affected.	There is special legislation - National Action Plan for actions in case of natural disasters that determines the actions, the institutions in charge and provides for good coordination in case of natural disasters, including storms, earthquakes, etc.	Park rangers provide the monitoring at the field. The Hydro meteorological institute (Bulgarian academy of sciences) announces the danger of such events as a result of the daily analysis of meteorological data and preparation of weather forecast.	The monitoring is permanently provided. It is also a permanent duty of the institutions in charge to undertake appropriate measures for prevention or removing of damages, caused by storms.	Pirin National Park Directorate, the State forestry agency and its enterprises, the Ministry of interior and its regional departments, municipalities and organized groups of volunteers are involved in those actions.	The storms are natural disasters which cannot be avoided. The actions aimed at diminishing the damages. The storms affect mainly the forests, causing falling or damaging of trees as a result of strong winds or landslides as a result of strong rains.
3.10.6	Temperature change	So far, no criteria or attributes have been affected.	In the national park, there are several meteorological stations, which provide data on the meteorological parameters, including air temperature. In the last years there is an increase in the temperatures and decrease in the duration of snow cover	The monitoring is provided by the respective institute of Bulgarian academy of sciences.	These automatic meteorological stations provide data on daily basis. These data are analyzed by the respective institute of Bulgarian academy of sciences and are being published in annual reports.	On national level such kind of data are gathered and analysed by the National Hydro-meteorological institute under the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Pirin National park Directorate do not provide monitoring on temperatures.	These data are used in the process of management plan preparation for a period of 10 years. They provide information about the vegetation period, succession processes in the ecosystems, presence of species and formulation of appropriate measures.
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	So far, no criteria or attributes have been affected.	There is a technical project for prevention of the forests from fires for 10 years period for the WHP, adopted by the Ministry of environment and water and Ministry of agriculture and food supply, State forestry agency and Ministry of interior	The Park rangers provide the monitoring at the field. During the fire hazardous season, the Park administration hires additional staff and gives shifts during the weekends. A pilot fire alarming system was built in the Vihren region.	Annual plans against fires, are adopted. They determine the required actions, necessary equipment and coordination between the competent institutions. Annual trainings are also carried out for the park staff and the Regional Fire Service	Pirin National Park Directorate, State forestry agency, Ministry of agriculture and food supply, Ministry of interior, their regional departments and groups of volunteers, organized by the municipalities, are involved in those actions.	The Park regions are supplied with the necessary equipment. Nevertheless, under a huge on-going project, runned by the Park administration, funded by EU, the park regions and rangers, will be equipped with new techniques and clothing against fire.

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	
4.1.4	The boundaries of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities / landowners		Within a project for Sustainable Management of Pirin National Park, funded by the EU funds, a demarcation of the Property's boundaries and buffer zone is provided.	Demarcation of the boundaries of the WH Property and its buffer zone will be completed till the end of 2015.	Pirin National Park Directorate	Current boundaries of the Property were established with Decision of the WHC from 2010. These boundaries should be further announced among the residents and the communities. Public hearings to be held for the management plan will be used as platform.	
4.1.5	The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities/landowners		Within a project for Sustainable Management of Pirin National Park, funded by the EU funds, a demarcation of the Property's boundaries and buffer zone is provided. The buffer zone will be announced during the public hearings for the management plan.	Demarcation of the boundaries of the WH Property and its buffer zone will be completed till the end of 2015.	Pirin National Park Directorate	The buffer zone was determined only in 2010. These are 2 ski zones above towns of Bansko and Dobrinishte, found by the WHC to be incompatible with the World Heritage standards. The buffer zone will be further communicated during the public hearings.	

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 has been **compromised** by factors described in this report

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

5.3.2. We chose the answer according to which the integrity of the World Heritage property has been compromised because of the development of ski pists and facilities in Bansko ski zone, which was excluded from the WH property in 2010 and designated as buffer zone, because this kind of development was not in compliance with the values of the Convention.

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	Very positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Very positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

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

6.1.4. Not all of the local communities do believe that there quality of life will be improved as a result of the presence of the World Heritage property. Many of them find the property

as an obstacle for future development. 6.1.8. There is serious funding provided by EU. Though, there are some obstacles in the management of the projects and misuse of the amounts. 6.1.12. There is negative lobbying as well. For example some investors try to lobby in order to allow further development of the area

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**