

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Upper Middle Rhine Valley

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Germany

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

1066

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2002

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (longitude / latitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Upper Middle Rhine Valley	50.174 / 7.694	27250	34680	61930	2002
Total (ha)		27250	34680	61930	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Upper Middle Rhine Valley - inscribed property	29/06/2002	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Birgitta Ringbeck
Auswärtiges Amt
National World Heritage Focal Point
Referat 603-9
Multilaterale Kultur- und Medienpolitik

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Nadya König-Lehrmann
Zweckverband Oberes Mittelrheintal
Site Manager
- Martin Orth
Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz
- Stefanie Hahn

Comment

Rheinland-Pfälzisches Ministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft, Weiterbildung und Kultur Dr. Stefanie Hahn Mittlere Bleiche 61 55116 Mainz Telefon +49 6131 165473 E-Mail: stefanie.hahn@mbwwk.rlp.de instead of Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt... please place Hessisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Landesentwicklung Dagmar Meinen Kaiser-Friedrich-Ring 75 65185 Wiesbaden Tel.: +49 (611) 815 2968 Fax: +49 (611) 815 49 2968 E-Mail: dagmar.meinen@hmwvl.hessen.de

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

- [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)

- [Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Weiterbildung, Forschung und Kultur Rheinland-Pfalz \(german only\)](#)
- [Rheinland-Pfalz Tourismus GmbH \(german only\)](#)
- [Stadt Koblenz](#)
- [Country: Rhineland-Palatinate](#)
- [Bingen am Rhein \(german only\)](#)
- [Castles along the Rhein \(MediaSpecialties\)](#)
- [Upper Middle Rhine Valley \(official website\)](#)

Comment

please use instead of the listed webaddresses only the following: www.welterbe-mittelrheintal.de www.zv-welterbe.de www.welterbe-mittelrhein.de www.welterbe-atlas.de

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

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The strategic location of the dramatic 65km stretch of the Middle Rhine Valley between Bingen, Rudesheim und Koblenz as a transport artery and the prosperity that this engendered is reflected in its sixty small towns, the extensive terraced vineyards and the ruins of castles that once defended its trade.

The river breaks through the Rhenish Slate Mountains, connecting the broad floodplain of the Oberrheingraben with the lowland basin of the Lower Rhine. The property extends from the Bingen Gate (Binger Pforte), where the River Rhine flows into the deeply gorged, canyon section of the Rhine Valley, through the 15km long Bacharach valley, with smaller V-shaped side valleys, to Oberwesel where the transition from soft clay-slates to hard sandstone, results. In a series of narrows, the most famous of which is the Loreley, no more than 130m wide (and at 20m the deepest section of the Middle Rhine), and then up to the Lahnstein Gate (Lahnsteiner Pforte), where the river widens again into the Neuwied Valley. The property also includes the adjoining middle and upper Rhine terraces (Upper Valley) which bear witness to the course taken by the river in ancient times.

As a transport route, the Rhine has served as a link between the southern and northern halves of the continent since prehistoric times, enabling trade and cultural exchange, which in turn led to the establishment of settlements. Condensed into a very small area, these subsequently joined up to form chains of villages and small towns. For over a 1,000 years the steep valley sides have been terraced for vineyards.

The landscape is punctuated by some 40 hill top castles and fortresses erected over a period of around 1,000 years. Abandonment and later the wars of the 17th century left most as picturesque ruins. The later 18th century saw the growth of sensibility towards the beauties of nature, and the often dramatic physical scenery of the Middle Rhine Valley, coupled with the many ruined castles on prominent hilltops, made it appeal strongly to the Romantic movement, which in turn influenced the form of much 19th century restoration and reconstruction.

The Rhine is one of the world's great rivers and has witnessed many crucial events in human history. The stretch of the Middle Rhine Valley between Bingen and Koblenz is in many ways an exceptional expression of this long history. It is a

cultural landscape that has been fashioned by humankind over many centuries and its present form and structure derive from human interventions conditioned by the cultural and political evolution of Western Europe. The geomorphology of the Middle Rhine Valley, moreover, is such that the river has over the centuries fostered a cultural landscape of great beauty which has strongly influenced artists of all kinds - poets, painters, and composers - over the past two centuries.

Criterion (ii): As one of the most important transport routes in Europe, the Middle Rhine Valley has for two millennia facilitated the exchange of culture between the Mediterranean region and the north.

Criterion (iv): The Middle Rhine Valley is an outstanding organic cultural landscape, the present-day character of which is determined both by its geomorphological and geological setting and by the human interventions, such as settlements, transport infrastructure, and land use, that it has undergone over two thousand years.

Criterion (v): The Middle Rhine Valley is an outstanding example of an evolving traditional way of life and means of communication in a narrow river valley. The terracing of its steep slopes in particular has shaped the landscape in many ways for more than two millennia. However, this form of land use is under threat from the socio-economic pressures of the present day.

Integrity

The extensive property contains within its boundaries all the key attributes - the geological landscape, the sixty towns and settlements, the forty castles and forts, the vineyard terraces that define this prosperous and picturesque stretch of the Rhine valley and encompass all the key views that influenced writers and artists.

Authenticity

Thanks to the relatively modest leeway given by the natural landscape of the Middle Rhine Valley to the people inhabiting it, this section of the river has undergone fewer changes than others. As a result, but also thanks to various early attempts to protect the landscape and its historical monuments, the landscape has remained largely untouched. As a result, many of the features and elements that lend the area its authenticity have been preserved.

However the railways that run along the valley contribute to the noise pollution in the Valley which is a problem that needs to be mitigated.

Protection and management requirements

In Rhineland-Palatinate the monuments are covered by the 1978 Cultural Monuments Protection Law (Denkmalschutzgesetz) and the 1998 Building Ordinance (Landesbauordnung Rheinland-Pfalz). The landscape values are protected by the 2000 Forest Law (Landeswaldgesetz), 2005 Landscape Conservation Law (Landesgesetz zur nachhaltigen Entwicklung von Natur und Landschaft), 2003 Planning Law (Landesplanungsgesetz), 2004 Water Law (Landeswassergesetz), and the 1978 Middle Rhine Landscape Protection Ordinance (Landschaftsschutzverordnung Mittelrhein). Monuments in Hesse are covered by the 1976 Hesse Monuments Protection Law (Gesetz zum Schutz der Kulturdenkmäler) as amended in 1986. The 2002 Hesse Building Ordinance (Hessische Bauordnung) also has a significant role to play in monument protection. The landscape values are protected by a series of statutes, such as the 2002 Hesse Forest Law (Hessisches Forstgesetz), the 2006 Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation Law (Hessisches Gesetz über Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege), the 2002 Planning Law (Hessisches Landesplanungsgesetz), and the 2005 Water Law (Hessisches Wassergesetz).

Signatories of the Rhine Valley Charter (Die Rheintal Charta) of November 1997, which include the great majority of

communities in the Middle Rhine Valley, undertake to conserve, manage, and exercise care in developing the natural and cultural heritage and the unique cultural landscape of the Rhine Valley.

Since 2005, the property has been run by the Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association, which comprises representatives from all the local and 'county' authorities falling within the region, as well as including officials from the federal states of Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate. The association also provides the property's World Heritage manager.

In 2004, the job of monitoring the implementation of the management plan in Rhineland-Palatinate was transferred to the state's Structural and Approval Directorate in Koblenz. The measures taken in the property serve primarily to preserve historical castles and towns, uphold the tradition of winegrowing on the steep slopes of the valley, secure habitats for rare animal and plant species, and generally ensure that the state of the environment remains unaltered. These measures are also designed to underpin the region's economic viability in a bid to dissuade people from moving away and prevent the average age of the region's inhabitants from rising.

To conciliate economic development to benefit local communities and the safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property a Master Plan for the further sustainable development of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Site is about to be compiled.

Comment

The Masterplan is elaborated, on which an implementation process will follow. The current protection legislation is detailed described in chapter 1.4 of the Masterplan. Legislation in Hesse has changed: from "the 2006 Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation Law (Hessisches Gesetz über Natur und Landschaftspflege)" to "Hessian Implementation Law of the 2010 federal Nature Protection Act (Hessisches Ausführungsgesetz zum Bundesnaturschutzgesetz)". The Water Law was updated 2010.

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

(ii)(iv)(v)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

ii: Rhine river as most important transport route in Europe has facilitated exchange of cultures between north and south
 iv: outstanding organic cultural landscape that is determined both by its geomorphological and geological setting and by the human interventions (settlements, forts and castles, vineyards), that it has undergone over two thousand years
 v: terracing of steep slopes of Rhine River in particular has shaped the landscape in many ways for more than two millennia

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value 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					
3.1.1	Housing	    				
3.1.2	Commercial development	    				
3.1.3	Industrial areas	    				
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	    				
3.3.2	Renewable energy facilities	    				
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.3	Land conversion	    				
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals	    				
3.5.5	Crop production	   				
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	    				
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.4	Avalanche/ landslide	    				
3.13	Management and institutional factors					
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities	    				
3.13.2	High 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	
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	extensive	on-going	significant	low capacity	static
3.3	Services Infrastructures					
3.3.2	Renewable energy facilities	localised	on-going	minor	high capacity	increasing
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.4	Avalanche/ landslide	restricted	one off or rare	minor	medium capacity	static

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

3.17.1 - Comments

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 are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

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 both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

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

4.2. Protective Measures

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

The cultural landscape, which covers c 272.5km comprises over sixty towns, communities, etc. The delimitation of the areas takes account primarily of the geographical and geomorphological features of this clearly defined landscape, into which are closely integrated the historical and other cultural elements (coherence of settlements, landscape characterized by castles, terraced vineyards, coppice woodland, etc). There is a substantial number of protected monuments within this area. There is a buffer zone of c 346.8km², the external boundary of which is on the catchment divide, so as to prevent encroachment on the protected cultural landscape by highly visible and inharmonious structures of any kind. This division also has historical and cultural relevance. In Rhineland-Pfalz the monuments are covered by the 1978 Cultural Monuments

Protection and Conservation Law (Landesgesetz zum Schutz und zur Pflege der Kulturdenkmäler) and the 1998 Building Ordinance (Landesbauordnung Rheinland-Pfalz). The landscape values are protected by the 1977 Forest Law (Landesforstgesetz), 1979 Landscape Conservation Law (Landespflugesetz), 1977 Planning Law (Landesplanungsgesetz), 1990 Water Law (Landeswassergesetz), and the 1978 Middle Rhine Landscape Protection Ordinance (Landschaftsschutzverordnung Mittelrhein). Monuments in Hesse are covered by the 1976 Hesse Monuments Protection Law (Gesetz zum Schutz der Kulturdenkmäler) as amended in 1986. The 1993 Hesse Building Ordinance (Bauordnung) also has a significant role to play in monument protection.

The landscape values are protected by a series of statutes, such as the 1978 Hesse Forest Law (Forstgesetz), the 1996 (amended 2000) Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation Law (Gesetz über Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege), the 1994 Planning Law (Landesplanungsgesetz), and the 1990 Water Law (Wassergesetz). Signatories of the Rhine Valley Charter (Die Rheintal Charta) of November 1997, which include the great majority of communities in the Middle Rhine Valley, undertake to conserve, manage, and exercise care in developing the natural and cultural heritage and the unique cultural landscape of the Rhine Valley.

Comment

In 2012 Masterplan was elaborated. In chapter 1.4 the protective designation is described in detail. The legislation in Hesse has changed: from "the 1996 (amended 2000) Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation Law (Landesgesetz über Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege)" to Hessian Implementation Law of the 2010 Federal Nature Protection Act (Hessisches Ausführungsgesetz zum Bundesnaturschutzgesetz"; and the

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?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

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

There is **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

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

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Ownership and management of the properties included in the area are very diverse – Land governments, local authorities, non-profit foundations and associations such as the German Castle Association (Deutsche Burgenvereinigung), the Roman Catholic Church, the Protestant State Churches, institutions, companies, and private individuals. The river itself is a federal waterway owned by the Federal Republic of Germany. At the highest level of management are the Rhineland Palatinate Regional Development Programme (LEP III) and the Hesse Regional Development Plan 2000, both of which specify the framework for sustained overall development of the space available in the two Länder. The valley between Bingen and Koblenz is identified as a “space requiring special planning”; the agencies responsible for regional planning are given the task of drawing up a concept for the best use of this space. The vineyards are given special protection as preferred agricultural land. The regional plans drawn up for Middle Rhine-Westerwald and Rheinhessen-Nahe in Rhineland-Palatinate and the South Hesse Regional Plan take this process one stage further, setting out objectives and principles for developing built-up areas and open spaces in the Middle Rhine Valley with a view to the sustained future development of its cultural landscape.

There is a series of other plans in force at county and commune level, which interlock with the overall objectives enunciated by the higher-level plans. There is a number of authorities and agencies with management authority over properties within the area. At the highest level these are in Hesse the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Transport and Regional development, of the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, and of Arts and Sciences, and in Rhineland-Palatinate the Ministries of the Environment and Forestry, of Culture, Youth, Family and Women’s Affairs, of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture, and Interior and Sport. At the middle level in the federal state hierarchy come the Darmstadt Regional Commission (Regierungspräsidium), which is the highest nature conservation authority, the Structural and Approval Directorates (North in Koblenz, South in Neustadt) which are, respectively, the higher planning authority and the higher authority responsible for the preservation of natural resources, and the Supervisory and Services Directorate in Trier, the higher authority responsible for monument conservation. At the third level come the Rheingau-Taunus County Council, the Hesse administration’s lower nature conservation authority, and in Rhineland-Palatinate the county councils and the town council of Koblenz. Each of the Länder has specialized agencies for conservation and protection. These are for Hesse the Monument Conservation Authority (Wiesbaden), and in RhinelandPalatinate the Monument Conservation Authority (Mainz), the Regional Authority for Environmental Protection and Trading Standards (Oppenheim), and the Regional Geological Office (Mainz).

Comment

LEP III was substituted by LEP IV. The names of the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministries have changed. Legislation in Hesse has changes (see 2.1) Since 2005 the property has been run by the Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association, which comprises representatives from all local and country authorities falling within the region and provides a site manager. A Masterplan was elaborated, the implementation will follow.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Masterplan World Heritage Upper Middle Rhine Valley Action plan of Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association Managementplan which is going to be updated during the implementation process of the Masterplan

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 **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

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 **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

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

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Good
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Good
Industry	Good

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 directly **participate** in all relevant decisions relating to management, i.e. co-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

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

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 **regular contact** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone and **substantial co-operation** on management

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

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

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)	3%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	25%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	70%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	2%
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.)	0%
Other grants	0%

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

Comment

none

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

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

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 **adequate** equipment and facilities

Section II-Upper Middle Rhine Valley

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

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

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

none

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

Full-time	50%
Part-time	50%

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

Permanent	100%
Seasonal	0%

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

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

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

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

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	Good
Community outreach	Good
Interpretation	Good
Education	Good
Visitor management	Good
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Good
Tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Good

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	High
Community outreach	High
Interpretation	High
Education	High
Visitor management	High
Conservation	High
Administration	High
Risk preparedness	High
Tourism	High
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

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 fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

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

none

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**

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 widely** with the local, national and international audiences

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

Masterplan (www.masterplan-mittelrheintal.de) Action Plan (www.welterbe-oberes-mittelrheintal.de/index.php?id=82) Cultural Landscape Development Concept (www.welterbe-oberes-mittelrheintal.de/index.php?id=klek) World Heritage Atlas (www.welterbe-atlas.de) Guideline Building Culture (<http://www.sgdNord.rlp.de/aufgaben/projektgruppe-welterbe-oberes-mittelrheintal/die-initiative-baukultur/>)

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

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	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent

Section II-Upper Middle Rhine Valley

Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Excellent

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 and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

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 been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

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

There is **excellent presentation and interpretation** of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

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	Excellent
Information booths	Excellent
Guided tours	Excellent
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Excellent
Other	Excellent

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

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	Static
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?

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Transportation services
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys
Other

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

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 **effectively managed** and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value

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

There is **excellent 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

none

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	Excellent
Local communities	Excellent
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Excellent
Industry	Excellent
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

UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommended in Brasilia to elaborate a Masterplan, which was finished in 2012.

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

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	
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure						
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	iv, v The freight trains that run along the valley contribute to the noise pollution which is a problem that needs to be mitigated. This affects the settlement development in the valley.	citizens initiatives against noise pollution arising from the freight trains, resolution "10-Punkte-Programm", technical measures against noise by German Railway, interdisciplinary committee, div. congresses	There are different measurements of the noise	longterm	no real lead agency: institutions and persons involved are German railway, state and federal government, European Union, political parties, citizens	no
3.3	Services Infrastructures						
3.3.2	Renewable energy facilities	iv, v the picturesque and largely untouched cultural landscape with all the key views that influenced writers and artists can be affected by wind power plants	Study on visual impact of wind power plants, legislation: Windenergieerlass in Hesse; Fortschreibung LEP IV, Regionale Raumordnungspläne, Bauleitplanung RLP	The monitoring is done by the approval authorities	from short to longterm, enduring action	governmental and administrative agencies	no
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.4	Avalanche/ landslide	iv the organic cultural landscape as well as the human interventions (land use, settlement, traffic) are affected by landslides	physical safeguarding measures accompanied by ecological assistance and compensation	ecological assistance and approval agencies are monitoring the measures	current, enduring action	German Railway, approval agencies and federal state authority	no

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

Answers provided have not outlined any serious management need.

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

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	Positive
Management effectiveness	Very positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Very positive
Education	Very positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Very positive
International cooperation	Very positive
Political support for conservation	Very positive
Legal / Policy framework	Very positive
Lobbying	Very positive
Institutional coordination	Very positive
Security	Very positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

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

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
Advisory bodies

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

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?

All 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	Not Applicable
State Party	Not Applicable
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

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

- **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**
Reason for update: The Masterplan is elaborated, on which an implementation process will follow. The current protection legislation is detailed described in chapter 1.4 of the Masterplan. Legislation in Hesse has changed: from "the 2006 Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation Law (Hessisches Gesetz über Natur und Landschaftspflege)" to "Hessian Implementation Law of the 2010 federal Nature Protection Act (Hessisches Ausführungsgesetz zum Bundesnaturschutzgesetz)". The Water Law was updated 2010.

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