

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Danube Delta

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Romania

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

588


Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1991

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Danube Delta	45.083 / 29.5	312440	0	312440	1991
Total (ha)		312440	0	312440	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve	09/05/2005	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Edward Bratfanof
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority
Governor

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [The Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation \(CIMEC\)](#)
2. [MAB](#)
3. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

Comment

www.ddbra.ro

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

Comment

Ramsar Convention – Danube Delta - Ramsar site no. 521 / 1991 UNESCO – MAB Programme – Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve / 1990 and Danube Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve RO/UA – 1999 Natura 2000 Network: ROSCI0065 – Danube Delta ROSCI0066 – Danube Delta marine area ROSPA 0031 – Danube Delta and Razim Sinoie complex ROSPA0076 – Black Sea area

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

At the time of inscription, IUCN carried out an evaluation of the authenticity and/or integrity of the property. The World Heritage Committee approved at the date of inscription a Statement of Significance for the site, which define the Outstanding Universal Value. The Statement of Significance for the site still adequately define and reflect the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. Details of the evaluation: The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is the largest continuous marshland in Europe and the second largest delta (the Volga delta being the largest), which includes the greatest stretch of reedbeds in the world. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded, of which over 176 species breed. The delta is very important for fish, with 85 fresh water species present. The Danube Delta is a remarkable alluvial feature constituting critical habitats for migratory birds and other animals. It is the major remaining wetland on the flyway between central and eastern Europe and the Mediterranean and Middle East and Africa. It is exceptional for its contiguity of wetlands ecosystems and currently supports endangered flora and fauna. Conditions of integrity are fulfilled: - The vast scale of the Delta ensure maintenance of natural ecosystem functioning together with the provision of the range requirements of a diversity of animals species; - Attention is being directed to the rehabilitation of the quantity and quality of water flows in the Danube drainage basin. The core areas, together with the appropriate buffer zones will ensure survival of wildlife including migratory birds, fish and mammals; The Government of Romania is committed to the permanent protection and enhancement of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, and has initiated the appropriate institutional, scientific and legal processes to guarantee the safeguarding of its unique contribution to the world's natural heritage.

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

(vii)(x)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

A natural property: - Outstanding examples representing the major stages of the Earth's evolutionary history. The site lies at the meeting point of the Palaearctic and Mediterranean biogeographical zones. - Outstanding examples representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment. The scale and diversity of wetland plant and animal communities sustained by traditional compatible uses are exceptional - Contains unique, rare or superlative natural phenomena, formations or features of exceptional natural beauty. It is an outstanding example of a most important ecosystem, being a wetland ecosystem on a vast scale, unique both in its European context and internationally - The most important and significant habitats where threatened species of plants and animals of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science and conservation still survive. It contains a habitat complex of world value for certain rare and endangered species.

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

N/A

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					
3.1.3	Industrial areas					
3.1.4	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure					
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities					
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.3	Marine 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					
3.3.4	Localised utilities					
3.3.5	Major linear utilities					
3.4	Pollution					
3.4.1	Pollution of marine waters					
3.4.2	Ground water pollution					
3.4.3	Surface water pollution					
3.4.4	Air pollution					
3.4.5	Solid waste					
3.4.6	Input of excess energy					
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources					
3.5.2	Aquaculture					
3.5.3	Land conversion					
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					
3.7.8	Micro-organisms					
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation					
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities					
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.2	Flooding					
3.10.3	Drought					
3.10.5	Changes to oceanic waters					
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition					
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)					
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species					

Name		Impact			Origin	
3.12.3	Invasive / alien freshwater species					
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	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.3 Services Infrastructures					
3.3.5 Major linear utilities	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.4 Pollution					
3.4.5 Solid waste	localised	frequent	minor	medium capacity	static
3.5 Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.10 Forestry /wood production	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.9 Other human activities					
3.9.1 Illegal activities	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.10 Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.2 Flooding	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.10.3 Drought	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	static
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)	localised	intermittent or sporadic	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 **no buffer zone**, and it is not needed

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 property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

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 property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

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)

- Law 82/1993, completed by the Law 454/2001, regarding the establishment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve,
- Governmental Decision 248/1994, completed by the Governmental Decision 367/2002 regarding the implementation of the Law 82/1993, including zonation of the reserve, the Statute of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority and the Scientific Council of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
- Law 462/2001 regarding the regime of the natural protected areas, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna conservation
- Law 5/2000 concerning the territorial planning of Romania, including the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and its 18 core areas in the Annex dedicated to the Protected zones

- Emergency Governmental Order 195/2005 regarding the environmental protection
 - Law 265/2006 for approval the Emergency Governmental Order 195/2005 regarding the environmental protection
 - Emergency Governmental Order 57/2007 regarding the regime of the natural protected areas, natural habitats conservation, of wild flora and fauna
 - Governmental Decision 1284/2007 regarding the declaration of the special protected areas for waterfowls as integrated part of the European Natura 2000 ecological network in Romania
 - Decision 1964/2007 regarding the establishment of the regime of natural protected areas of the community interest sites, as integrated part of the European Natura 2000 ecological network in Romania
 - Governmental Decision no. 1516/2008 for approval of the new urbanism rules for DDBR
 - Governmental Decision 445/2009 regarding the evaluation of some public and private projects impact on environment
 - Emergency Governmental 127/2010 for adopting some measures for economic-social development of the Danube Delta area
 - Order 19 from 13 January 2010 for approval methodological guidelines regarding the adequate evaluation of the potential effects of the plans or projects on natural protected areas of community interest
 - Common Order 135/76/84/1284 from 10 February 2010 regarding the approval of the Methodology to apply the assessment of public and private projects impact on environment
 - Governmental Decision 1066/2010 to declare two scientific reserves for the protection of the nesting areas for *Pelecanus crispus*: Ceaplace Island (117 ha) and Prundul cu Păsări Island (187 ha)
- The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is divided in strictly protected areas, surrounded by buffer zones. At the moment of the nomination on the World Heritage List, there were 18 strictly protected areas with a total surface of 50,600 ha, and 13 buffer zones, with a total areas of 223,300 ha. In 2010, through Governmental Decision (HG 1066/2010) there were declared two scientific reserves for the protection of the nesting areas for *Pelecanus crispus*: Ceaplace Island (117 ha) and Prundul cu Păsări Island (187 ha). Both reserves will have the status of strictly protected areas, increasing the total area of strictly protected areas in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve to 50,904 ha, decreasing the buffer zone to 222,996 ha. These two types of zones (with a total area of 273,900 ha) are part of the World Heritage property. The difference between the surface of the Biosphere Reserve of 580,000 ha and these protected areas of 273,900 ha, is represented by economic zones with an area of 306,100 ha, and surrounds the World Heritage property, except the marine buffer zones.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Thursday, December 15, 2005

• Question 6.02

- Law 82/1993, completed by the Law 454/2001 regarding the establishment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
- Governmental Decision 248/1994, completed by the Governmental Decision 367/2002 regarding the implementation of the Law 82/1993, including the zonation of the reserve, the Statute of the Danube Delta Biosphere and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority and the Scientific Council of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
- Law 462 / 2001 regarding the regime of the natural protected areas, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna conservation

- Law 5/2000, concerning the territorial planning of Romania, including the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and the its 18 core areas in the Annex dedicated to the Protected zones

Comment

• Law 82/1993, completed by the Law 454/2001, regarding the establishment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, modified by the Law 136/2011 and by the Law 216/2013 • Governmental Decision 248/1994 including zonation of the reserve, the Statute of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority and the Scientific Council of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve • Law 462/2001 regarding the regime of the natural protected areas, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna conservation • Law 5/2000 concerning the territorial planning of Romania, including the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and its 18 core areas in the Annex dedicated to the Protected zones • Emergency Governmental Order 195/2005 regarding the environmental protection • Law 265/2006 for approval the Emergency Governmental Order 195/2005 regarding the environmental protection • Emergency Governmental Order 57/2007 regarding the regime of the natural protected areas, natural habitats conservation, of wild flora and fauna • Governmental Decision 1284/2007 regarding the declaration of the special protected areas for waterfowls as integrated part of the European Natura 2000 ecological network in Romania • Decision 1964/2007 regarding the establishment of the regime of natural protected areas of the community interest sites, as integrated part of the European Natura 2000 ecological network in Romania • Governmental Decision no. 1516/2008 for approval of the new urbanism rules for DDBR • Governmental Decision 445/2009 regarding the evaluation of some public and private projects impact on environment • Emergency Governmental 127/2010 for adopting some measures for economic-social development of the Danube Delta area • Order 19 from 13 January 2010 for approval methodological guidelines regarding the adequate evaluation of the potential effects of the plans or projects on natural protected areas of community interest • Common Order 135/76/84/1284 from 10 February 2010 regarding the approval of the Methodology to apply the assessment of public and private projects impact on environment • Governmental Decision 1066/2010 to declare two scientific reserves for the protection of the nesting areas for *Pelecanus crispus*: Ceaplace Island (117 ha) and Prundul cu Păsări Island (187 ha) The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is divided in strictly protected areas, surrounded by buffer zones. At the moment of the nomination on the World Heritage List, there were 18 strictly protected areas with a total surface of 50,600 ha, and 13 buffer zones, with a total areas of 223,300 ha. In 2010, through Governmental Decision (HG 1066/2010) there were declared two scientific reserves for the protection of the nesting areas for *Pelecanus crispus*: Ceaplace Island (117 ha) and Prundul cu Păsări Island (187 ha). Both reserves will have the status of strictly protected areas, increasing the total area of strictly protected areas in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve to 50,904 ha, decreasing the buffer zone to 222,996 ha. These two types of zones (with a total area of 273,900 ha) are part of the World Heritage property. The difference between the surface of the Biosphere Reserve of 580,000 ha and these protected areas of 273,900 ha, is represented by economic zones with an area of 306,100 ha, and surrounds the World Heritage property, except the marine buffer zones.

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 property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

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

The World Heritage property has its own management body: Danube Delta Biosphere Authority, being a local public authority, under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, a The first Management Plan (1995) was revised twice, for the period 2002 – 2006 and for the period 2008 – 2012. The elaboration of the Management Plan is a consultative process, and should be approved by Governmental Decision.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Thursday, December 15, 2005

• **Question 5.02**

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

• **Question 5.03**

Set up date: 1994

Function: -approves the biodiversity conservation programs; - set sup the core areas, buffer zones and,economic zones; - approves the program for ecological restoration, the civil works do be done for this purpose; - approves the management plan for the reserve; - establishes the flora and fauna species that need fully protection on the territory of the reserve; - analyses and approves the status of the natural resources use quota; - approves the research programs ;

Mandate: unlimited

Constituted: legal

• Question 5.05

- Overall management system of the site
 - Management under protective legislation

Comment

The entire activity regarding the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, including the World Heritage property, is approved by the Scientific Council. It was also established an Advisory Management Council, consisting of the most representative stakeholders acting in the Danube Delta area.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

A new management plan will be finalised as a result of the implementation of a project funded with European funds.

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

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

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


There are no significant changes in the legal status for the World Heritage property since 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)	5.02%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	88.42%
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.)	6.05%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0.51%
Other grants	0%

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

Title	Year	Amount	Link to source
Expert meeting for the preparation of a management plan for the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Romania, 17-19 September 1991	1991	8000.00	
Total		8000	

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)?

Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed

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?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

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

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	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?

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	Poor
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	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	Medium
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	High
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 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

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 **considerable** research but it is **not directed** towards 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

- P. Gâstescu, W. Lewis, Jr., P. Breţcan, Water resources and wetlands, Conference proceedings, 14-16 September 2012, Tulcea, Romania, Ed. Transversal, 2012 A collection of scientific papers, presented during the Conference from September 2012, in Tulcea, Romania, on areas such as: Rivers and lakes ecosystem ecology, Climate changing and water resources, Coastal environment, Deltas and wetlands, Water policies, including research related to Danube river, Danube Delta and Black Sea coast. - Liviu Mihaiu, Stuf, Traditional Houses from the Danube Delta, Bucureşti, Igloo 2008 A book that tries to capture what left from the authentic architecture of the area. The album aims to (re) generate the interest for traditional house of the Danube Delta and is an image database for future conservation - Georgeta Ionescu s.a., Beaver in Romania, Monograph, Ed. Silvică, 2010 The book presents the history and distribution of Eurasian beaver, species biology, reintroduction in Romania and its monitoring. Beaver reintroduction began in 1996 in Romania, resulting in the restoration of a viable populations. - Mihai Petrescu, Dobrogea and the Danube Delta, flora and habitat conservation, Tulcea, 2007 The book refers to nature conservation in Dobrogea and the Danube Delta, being the result of an activity to identify rare, endangered or vulnerable plant species, representative plant associations, habitats and

landscapes remarkable to put them under protection. The research was conducted in 2000-2006, in 100 sites spread in the territory between the Danube and the Black Sea. - P. Gâştescu, R. Ştiucă, Danube Delta, Biosphere Reserve, Ed. CD PRESS, 2008 The book is a synthesis of the research from the recent years. The paper is inter-disciplinary in nature, and is able to integrate physical geography – relief, morphohydrographic units, climate, water, flora, fauna and soils -with human geography (population, settlements). - Vasile Oţel, The Atlas of fish from Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Ed. Centrul de Informare Tehnologică Delta Dunării, Tulcea, 2007 The purpose of this paper is to support those whose work is related to fish fauna in all respects. The Atlas refers to the 135 species of fish from the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. - Petre Gâştescu, Grigore Baboianu, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Visitor guide, Danube Delta Biosphere reserve Authority, 2011 The Visitor's Guide to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is an attempt to include in one easy to read and use book, the latest information about the wonderful water and reeds world that Danube river forms when it meets the Black Sea. The book is addressed both to those who want to travel in this world, and those who want to learn about the area's natural values, customs, people. - Marinov E. Mihai, European Mink Handbook, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve – Romania, 2011, Tulcea, Danube Delta Technological Information Center, Publishing House The European mink (*Mustela lutreola* L.) is one of the most rare and endangered mammals existing in Europe. To increase chances of preventing species extinction, an essential condition is the knowledge of the distribution, the status (population trends, density, etc.) and the current limiting factors. - "Natura 2000" Programme within the Danube river network of protected areas DANUBEPARKS, DDBRA, 2011 Within the DANUBEPARKS project, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority elaborated a Report regarding the experience of Danube River Protected Areas in implementing "Natura 2000" Programme.

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, but not easily visible** to visitors

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

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

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 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?

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	Excellent
Information booths	Not needed
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Not needed
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Excellent
Other	Adequate

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	Decreasing
Two years ago	Decreasing
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Decreasing
Five years ago	Major Increase (100%+)

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

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?

There is **some management** of the visitor use of the World Heritage property

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

There is contact between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry but this is largely **confined to administrative or regulatory matters**

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

The fee is collected, and makes **some contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

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

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	Average
Local communities	Average
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Average
Industry	Poor
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

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

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

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

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	put in danger the important habitats for endangered species,	legal framework was improved, limited speed inside the property	to be implement an integrated monitoring and survey system	short-time action	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes	no
3.4 Pollution							
3.4.5	Solid waste	important habitats and endangered species are affected	to implement an adequate solide waste collecting system	controll and survey	short-time action	Local Authorities Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority	no
3.9 Other human activities							
3.9.1	Illegal activities	reduce in number the endangered species	interdiction in using/collecting/harvesting the endangered species	integrated monitoring system implementation	short and long-time action	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	no
3.10 Climate change and severe weather events							
3.10.2	Flooding	influence on habitat and species	reduce the impact of flooding by building protection dams ecological restoration works improve the hydrological regime	control and survey actions	long-term action	local authorities Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority	no
3.10.3	Drought	influence on habitats and species	ecological restoration works improve the hydrological regime inside the property	implement the integrated monitoring system	long-term action	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Research Institutes and Universities	no comment
3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events							
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	influence on habitats and species	long-term action	implement the integrated monitoring system	long-term action	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Research Institutes and Universities	no

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	more public awareness activities more awareness materials More educative programmes destined to increase the conscious of local people in protection and good maintainance of the WH property.	short and long-term actions	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority	no	
4.7 Visitor Management						
4.7.4	Some management of visitor use of the property but this could be improved	a visitor management plan to be done and implement	long-time action	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority	no	

4.7.5	Contact with the tourism industry is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters	to close the collaboration with tourism agents to involve them in tourists management	short- and long-term actions	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes Tourism agencies, accommodation facilities, etc.	no
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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	Positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	No impact
Recognition	No impact
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	No impact
Funding for the property	No impact
International cooperation	No impact
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	No impact
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

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

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

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	Fair

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 concept of 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	Excellent
State Party	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Excellent
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

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: At the time of inscription, IUCN carried out an evaluation of the authenticity and/or integrity of the property. The World Heritage Committee approved at the date of inscription a Statement of Significance for the site, which define the Outstanding Universal Value. The Statement of Significance for the site still adequately define and reflect the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. Details of the evaluation: The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is the largest continuous marshland in Europe and the second largest delta (the Volga delta being the largest), which includes the greatest stretch of reedbeds in the world. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded, of which over 176 species breed. The delta is very important for fish, with 85 fresh water species present. The Danube Delta is a remarkable alluvial feature constituting critical habitats for migratory birds and other animals. It is the major remaining wetland on the flyway between central and eastern Europe and the Mediterranean and Middle East and Africa. It is exceptional for its contiguity of wetlands ecosystems and currently supports endangered flora and fauna. Conditions of integrity are fulfilled: - The vast scale of the Delta ensure maintenance of natural ecosystem functioning together with the provision of the range requirements of a diversity of animals species; - Attention is being directed to the rehabilitation of the quantity and quality of water flows in the Danube drainage basin. The core areas, together with the appropriate buffer zones will ensure survival of wildlife including migratory birds, fish and mammals; The

Government of Romania is committed to the permanent protection and enhancement of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, and has initiated the appropriate institutional, scientific and legal processes to guarantee the safeguarding of its unique contribution to the world's natural heritage.

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