

## 1. World Heritage Property Data

### 1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Cave of Altamira and Paleolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain

#### Comment

The correct name should be as follows: Grotte d'Altamira et l'art rupestre paléolithique du nord de l'Espagne Cave of Altamira and paleolithic rock art of northern Spain La cueva de Altamira y el Arte rupestre paleolítico del norte de España

### 1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

#### State(s) Party(ies)

• Spain

#### Type of Property

cultural

#### Identification Number

310bis

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1985, 2008



### 1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
Altamira – inscribed in 1985	43.383 / -4.12	?	16	16	
La Peña de Candamo	43.456 / -6.072	?	99.97	99.97	
Tito Bustillo	43.461 / -5.068	?	243.38	243.38	
Covaciella	43.318 / -4.875	?	11.336	11.336	
Llonín	43.331 / -4.645	?	17.37	17.37	
El Pindal	43.398 / -4.533	?	69.37	69.37	
Chufín	43.291 / -4.458	?	16.65	16.65	
Hornos de la Peña	43.261 / -4.03	?	25.05	25.05	
Monte Castillo - El Castillo	43.291 / -3.964	?	68.93	68.93	
Monte Castillo - Las Monedas	43.291 / -3.964	?	68.93	68.93	
Monte Castillo - La Pasiega	43.291 / -3.964	?	68.93	68.93	
Monte Castillo - Las Chimeneas	43.291 / -3.964	?	68.93	68.93	
El Pendo	43.388 / -3.912	?	63.79	63.79	
La Garma	43.431 / -3.666	?	100.07	100.07	
Covalanas	43.246 / -3.452	?	1374.4	1374.4	
Santimamiñe	43.346 / -2.637	?	98.8	98.8	
Ekain	43.236 / -2.275	?	14.59	14.59	
Altxerri	43.269 / -2.134	?	15	15	
<b>Total (ha)</b>			<b>2441.496</b>	<b>2441.496</b>	

#### Comment

Following Paragraph 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, a minor modification will be requested for the enlargement of the buffer zone of the component: Cave of La Garma up to 415,78 (ha).

### 1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Altamira and Paleolithic Cave Art, Map of Core and Buffer Zone	31/01/2007	
Altamira Cave and its buffer zones	01/02/2007	

#### Comment

An updated version of the map of the component Altamira cave will be sent to the World Heritage Centre.

### 1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Elisa de Cabo de la Vega  
Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte  
Subdirectora de Protección de Patrimonio Histórico
- Laura de Miguel Riera  
Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte

Subdirección General de Protección de Patrimonio Histórico

- Esther Rodríguez  
Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte  
Subdirectora General Adjunta de Protección del Patrimonio Histórico

#### Comment

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. General Directorate of Fine Arts and Cultural Assets. National Museum and Research Centre of Altamira. - Basque Country. Department of Culture. - Government of Cantabria. Regional Department of Education, Culture and Sport - Government of Asturias. Regional Department of Culture, Social Communication and Tourism.

### 1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- José Antonio Lasheras  
Museo y Centro de Investigación de Altamira  
Director

#### Comment

Focal Point: director of the Museo Nacional y Centro de Investigación de Altamira. José Antonio Lasheras. Avda. Sautuola, s/n;39330- Santillana del Mar (Cantabria-Spain);Tfno.: + 34 942 81 80 05;Fax: + 34 942 84 01 57;Email: joseantonio.lasheras@mece.es. -Centro de Patrimonio Cultural Vasco: María José Arostegui Irastorza - Director del Museo Arqueológico de Asturias;Ignacio Alonso García -Director de las Cuevas Prehistóricas de Cantabria: Roberto Ontañón Peredo

### 1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [World Heritage Sites in Spain \(Tourist Office of Spain\)](#)

#### Comment

<http://www.mcu.es/patrimonio/CE/PatrMundial/Introduccion.htm>  
<http://museodealtamira.mcu.es>  
<http://www.kultura.ejgv.euskadi.net/r46-3835/es/>  
<http://www.culturadecantabria.com/>  
[www.museoarqueologicodeasturias.com](http://www.museoarqueologicodeasturias.com)

**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**

**Comment**

See nomination dossier "Palaeolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain. Proposal of Extension to the Inscription of Properties in the UNESCO List of World Heritage" (2008), Paragraph 3 "Justification for inscription".

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

(i)(iii)

**2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion**

Criterion (i) All the sciences devoted to the study of the paleolithic rock art in Europe confirm that this is the most ancient art; this is the first art of humankind. Criterion (iii) All the components of the serial site include works made in a large natural region during the upper Paleolithic. This is the art of the hunter-gatherers groups that is represented in all its techniques, thematics and styles, representing the symbolic imaginary.

**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**

There are scientific studies from the late nineteenth century. Today, radiocarbon dating systems based on organic pigments have dated Magdalenian between 17000- 11000BP. Methods of particle accelerator, and mass spectrometry analysis of the uranium series chronologies have corroborated with archaeological materials in Tito Bustillo, Altamira and Castillo, or styles in Ekain. Institutions and governments have created a legal corpus and appropriate protective measures.

**3. Factors Affecting the Property**

**3.14. Other factor(s)**

**3.14.1 - Other factor(s)**

Main factors that affect the site are related to cave microclimate and its stability, which favours the conservation of rock art or its alteration. Visits are a risk factor because they can change ambience parameters. All the component parts of the site that are open to the public have strictly limited and controlled visits in order to avoid alterations that could affect conservation.

### 3.15. Factors Summary Table

#### 3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact				Origin
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>					
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities					
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>					
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure					
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Local conditions affecting physical fabric</b>					
3.7.2	Relative humidity					
3.7.3	Temperature					
3.7.8	Micro-organisms					
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>					
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage					
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation					
<b>3.13</b>	<b>Management and institutional factors</b>					
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities					
3.13.3	Management activities					
<b>Legend</b>	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	
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.8	Micro-organisms	restricted	on-going	insignificant	high capacity	static

## 4.2. Protective Measures

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

Principal regulations directly or indirectly affecting the protection of the Altamira Cave:

-Decree of 25 April 1924 declaring the Altamira Cave a Monumento Arquitectónico-Artístico (Architectural-Artistic Monument).

-Law of 13 May 1933 consolidating all previously existing designations under the category of Monumento Arquitectónico-Artístico.

-Royal Decree 2410 of 27 August 1977, whereby the municipal government of Santillana granted full powers to the State over the Altamira Cave and property.

-Ministerial Order of 15 June 1979 creating the Altamira National Museum and Research Centre.

-Ministerial Order of 17 October 1979, creating the Board of Trustees of the Altamira Museum and Research Centre

-Ministerial Order of 17 May 1985 updating the composition of the Board of Trustees of the Altamira National Museum and Research Centre.

-Law 16/ 1985 of 25 June on Spanish Historical Heritage declaring all caves containing manifestations of rupestrian art a Bien de Interés Cultural .

-Law 11/1998 of 13 October on the Cultural Heritage of Cantabria.

-Resolution of 7 April 2004 of the Department of the Presidency, and Territorial and Urban Development of the Government of Cantabria approving the Municipal Master Plan and the Special Plan for the Protection of the Historical Complex of Santillana del Mar.

The Palaeolithic art caves are governed by Law no.16/1985 of Spanish Historic Heritage, and more particularly its Articles 40-1 and 40-2. They are defined as public properties of cultural interest and are thus subject to national listing for protection purposes. These listing measures include some earlier provisions concerning the recognition of Spanish national heritage. Following their discovery and study to establish their artistic and prehistoric value, all the nominated caves have been scheduled under the law, in 1924-1925 for those known earliest, and in 1997-1998 for the most recent (El Pando, La Gama).

Buffer zone:

The three autonomous regions of the Basque Country, Cantabria and Asturias provide regulatory protection for the buffer zones of the nominated caves. No modification may be made or new construction established without the authorisation of the Regional Council for Culture. The same authorisation is required for water catchments in the buffer zone. These specific authorisations for the nominated property and its buffer zone are included in the land use plan.

### Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Monday, November 7, 2005

#### • Question 6.02

Principal regulations directly or indirectly affecting the protection of the Altamira Cave:

-Decree of 25 April 1924 declaring the Altamira Cave a Monumento Arquitectónico-Artístico (Architectural-Artistic Monument).

-Law of 13 May 1933 consolidating all previously existing designations under the category of Monumento Arquitectónico-Artístico.

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

### 3.17.1 - Comments

Pressures for economic and urban development were removed when protection areas of the caves were established. The anthropic pressure is controlled by an effective management system that regulates access to the caves open to the public with the establishment of small groups adapted to the annual time and residence time inside the caves. Still remain natural geological processes and the risks of microbiological activity.

## 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

The buffer zones are adequate. The actions carried out on the sites by the institutions meet the criteria of preventive conservation established by ICOMOS in New Delhi in 2008. Actions are directed to the maintenance and preservation of the heritage values of the site and public awareness to ensure the legacy to future generations.

-Royal Decree 2410 of 27 August 1977, whereby the municipal government of Santillana granted full powers to the State over the Altamira Cave and property.

-Ministerial Order of 15 June 1979 creating the Altamira National Museum and Research Centre.

-Ministerial Order of 17 October 1979, creating the Board of Trustees of the Altamira Museum and Research Centre

-Ministerial Order of 17 May 1985 updating the composition of the Board of Trustees of the Altamira National Museum and Research Centre.

-Law 16/ 1985 of 25 June on Spanish Historical Heritage declaring all caves containing manifestations of rupestrian art a Bien de Interés Cultural .

-Law 11/1998 of 13 October on the Cultural Heritage of Cantabria.

-Resolution of 7 April 2004 of the Department of the Presidency, and Territorial and Urban Development of the Government of Cantabria approving the Municipal Master Plan and the Special Plan for the Protection of the Historical Complex of Santillana del Mar.

#### Comment

-Royal Decree 172/2010 of 19 February, for the regulation of the National Museum Board and Research Center of Altamira  
- Law 7/1990 of Basque Cultural Heritage (Ekain caves, and Santimamiñe Altxerri) - Law 1/2001 of Cultural Heritage of the Principality of Asturias (caves of Tito Bustillo, Peña de Candamo Llonín, Covaciella and El Pindal) - Legal protection: Extension of protection environment of La Garma. Agreement of the Governing Council of Cantabria April 12, 2012

#### 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

The Spanish Constitution (art. 46 and 132) says that the authorities should ensure that all Heritage and property located in the soil are public domain. Law 16/1985 PHE provides protective measures and regulates the archaeological heritage, declaring it of Cultural Interest. The regional regulations endorse it. The protection and conservation, protection areas, research is guaranteed by law and human and technical resources are provided for its management.

### 4.3. Management System / Management Plan

#### 4.3.1 - Management System

The supervisory authority is the Spanish Ministry of Culture. It acts on behalf of the State in the management of the cave of Altamira, which is an exceptional situation in Spain, in partnership with the Autonomous Region of Cantabria and the municipality of Santillana del Mar. In practice, the authorities in charge of the conservation of the other decorated caves are the specialist heritage management divisions of each of the autonomous regional governments:

- The Heritage Centre of the Basque Country, and the Technical Heritage Divisions of the Deputations of Biscay and Guipúzcoa

- The Cantabrian Council of Culture, Tourism and Sport

- The Asturias Cultural Heritage Department

These regional departments have on their staff technical personnel in charge of the monitoring devices, and archaeologists.

There is however a need for general coordination, along the lines of the existing commission between the Spanish State and the Cantabria Region in the case of Altamira.

The additional documentation received from the State Party shows that it was instituted under the name of Commission for Coordination of the Palaeolithic Cave Art Properties of the Cantabrian Corniche. It held its constitutive meeting on 11 October 2007. It brings together the representatives of the three autonomous regions and the Historic Heritage Division of the Spanish Ministry of Culture. It is currently setting up its Technical Committee.

The main role of the Coordination Commission and its Technical Committee is to facilitate communication firstly between the different regional bodies, and secondly between the administrative level and the technical level of cave management/conservation. The aim is to facilitate exchanges, promote cooperation and harmonise management and conservation plans.

In the regional framework, each cave has its own management plan and personnel for the management and presentation of the Palaeolithic heritage, depending on the annexe facilities (facsimile of the cave art, museum, documentation centre, etc.). In reality, the local plans of a given region are very similar, and local plans are also very similar from one region to another. The variants arise because of the particularities of each cave, its state of conservation, its

fragility, its visitor frequentation (or lack of frequentation), and its annexe facilities. The management plan for the caves consists primarily of permanent scientific monitoring of the state of conservation, under the control of the specialist services of the various autonomous regions. We noted earlier that this scientific monitoring has a direct impact on visit authorisations and thus on the management of flows of tourists on the site and nearby (See - Conservation). Some of the nominated caves can be visited in groups led by one or two guides. Those considered to be the most fragile are closed to the public (Las Pasiega, La Garma, Santimamine, Ekain). In the caves open for visits, the number of persons per group and per day is limited. The maximum number of visitors per day is different depending on local conditions: from two hundred or three hundred (Tito Bustillo, El Castillo, Las Monedas, Pindal) to a few dozen (El Pendo, Covalanas, Peña de Candamo, Hornos de la Peña). The number may even be reduced to a few units (Chufin). These maximum levels have been lowered in past years, on the basis of the atmospheric deterioration recorded and its possible consequences in conservation terms. Today, about 100,000 visitors are admitted in total to all the nominated caves, including Altamira. The interpretation centres and museums intended to present Palaeolithic art and civilisation to the public have recently been very considerably extended. The centres and museums are operated in conjunction with the local territorial authorities and the autonomous regions.

- The key development today is the Museum and Documentation Centre of Altamira, for the Cantabrian Region. Opened in 2001, it is visited by 270,000 people a year. The other main visitor centres and interpretation centres are:
- In the Basque Country, Ekain Berri is a major project nearing completion (facsimile of the cave art and museum of the cave of Ekain, which is not open for visits); the documentation centre of the cave of Santimamine is under construction.
- In the Cantabria region, there is a documentation centre for the Monte Castillo caves.
- In Asturias region, the museum of Teverga is an extensive project of good scientific level, which was opened in March 2007; there is also the interpretation centre of the Valdés-Bazan Palace at San Roman de Candamo and the Education Centre of Tito Bustillo.

#### Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Monday, November 7, 2005

##### • Question 5.02

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

##### • Question 5.03

**Set up date:** 1979

**Function:** Direct management of the Altamira Cave: conservation, developing scientific knowledge about the cave and the dissemination of such knowledge.

**Mandate:** Permanent

**Constituted:** legal

##### • Question 5.05

Overall management system of the site

- Management by the State Party

#### Comment

In 11-11-2007 a Commission was created for the Coordination of the WH Site. It has an interadministrative character. Its aim is to foster the common management and implement initiatives regarding conservation, knowledge about the site and dissemination of its Cantabria regions, as well as the

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. They meet twice a year.

#### 4.3.2 - Management Documents

##### Comment

The Technical Committee has published a Code of Good Practice (see Annex literature: LASHERAS, JA, Lafuente, C., Ontañón, R., LLAMOSAS, A., and FERNANDEZ, JJ (2012): The Altamira cave and rock art of the Cantabrian Coast. Good practice for the management of Palaeolithic cave art in Spain. Altamira Cave is governed by the principal Plan 2012-2014 for the management and conservation of the Cave and the Art. The board approved treatments on the site.

#### 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	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Fair
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
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 **directly contribute** to some decisions relating to 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**

In the Basque Country the caves are closed to the public and they carry out activities on a regular basis but are subject to a management plan. The Community of Cantabria, with industry in proximity to some of its caves, maintains contact with it to carry out its management.

**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**

The Museum of Prehistory and Archaeology of Cantabria has been renewed. Its research center opened in 2010 and the new permanent exhibition in 2013. Santimamiñe has recently opened visitor center with the virtual recreation of the Cave.

**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)	25%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	75%
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.)	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 **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 **adequate** equipment and facilities

**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**

For Altamira cave, the system is based on government funding and it is the Spanish State, through the General State Budget who finds budget items. The different regional governments do the same with the other integrated into the site places.

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

Full-time	90%
Part-time	10%

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

Permanent	90%
Seasonal	10%

**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	Fair
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Poor
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Good
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Good
Tourism	Fair
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	Medium
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	High
Risk preparedness	Not applicable
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**

Each center manager and each owner Administration of the sites designate staff trained by researchers from various disciplines, asset managers, curators, guides,... each with specific functions.

**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 **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 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**

See Annex Bibliography published between 2006-2014 for the studies of all the caves that compose the site.

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

Scientific studies and research projects are common and they are promoted by the government and Museum in charge. They are articulated in three ways: preventive conservation, archaeological research and education and dissemination. The tradition of Prehistory and Archaeology studies date back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in the northern regions of Spain.

**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
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Average
Visitors	Average
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 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	Excellent
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Excellent
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Not needed



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

Education and awareness is even good but there are individual variations depending on the proximity to an urban center, if integrated in a museum or whether they are open or closed to the public. All Administrations properly convey the values of exceptionality and the World Heritage emblem is visible in most of them.

**4.7. Visitor Management**

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

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

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

Entry tickets and registries
Visitor surveys
Other

**4.7.3 - Visitor management documents**

**Comment**

Of the eighteen caves that compose the WH site, eight are closed to visitors. The caves open to the public have limited open access regimes that are public knowledge but which are not gathered in a published document.

**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 **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?**

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**

Ekain and Santimamiñe caves manager's contact with the tourism industry is minimal. Visitor access is controlled by management measures that could be improved. The funds do not have direct impact on the site. Altamira Museum leads a Plan on the social role of museums. Its aim is to facilitate a

shift towards sustainable museums, the museum unhurried for enjoyment.

**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 considerable monitoring but it is **not directed towards 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	Poor
Local communities	Poor
Researchers	Poor
NGOs	Not applicable
Industry	Not applicable
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**

There are protected areas and buffer zones. A coordination committee for the site has been created. There are actions directed towards the assessment of the values of the site as a World Heritage property. Altamira is holding a landscape rehabilitation project environment and closures have been established based on recommendations of 2005. Caves open to the public have use regulation.

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

Control of biodeterioration: detection of microorganisms and foreign vegetation cover to prevent the arrival of nutrients. Monitoring of environmental conditions and measurement of radon gas. Full control of the drainage system, the characteristics of the overlying rock and soil overburden, geochemical control of water infiltration; microbiological control of suspended particles

**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	
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Local conditions affecting physical fabric</b>						
<b>3.7.8</b>	<b>Micro-organisms</b>	There is a risk that the criteria (ii) and (iii) are minimally affected in some places of the site.	Permanent preventive control state of conservation at all sites, and ongoing research to preventive conservation in Altamira and Cantabria.	Ongoing monitoring by the Museum of Altamira and technical services of the governments of Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque Country.	Permanent, periodic.	Museum of Altamira (Altamira cave ) and Directorate of the Prehistoric Caves of Cantabria	The presence of microorganisms in the caves is a natural factor of risk and against it, it is only appropriate preventive action and indirectly act, as is done in all the right places.

### 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

All caves maintain the Outstanding Universal Value for which they were inscribed, thanks to efficient management and constant research that ensures preventive conservation of the site and its integrity. The preservation is ensured.

### 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	Not applicable
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Not applicable
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

#### 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 four administrative entities owners have participated in the preparation of the questionnaire. The difficulty lies in the multiple character of the site that is constituted by 18 caves whose circumstances are not always equal.

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

UNESCO	Good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	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
Monitoring and reporting

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

UNESCO	Satisfactory
State Party	Excellent
Site Managers	Excellent
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

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

##### • Name of World Heritage Property

Reason for update: The correct name should be as follows: Grotte d'Altamira et l'art rupestre paléolithique du nord de l'Espagne Cave of Altamira and paleolithic rock art of northern Spain La cueva de Altamira y el Arte rupestre paleolítico del norte de España

##### • Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Reason for update: See nomination dossier "Palaeolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain. Proposal of Extension to the Inscription of Properties in the UNESCO List of World Heritage" (2008), Paragraph 3 "Justification for inscription".

##### • Geographic Information Table

Reason for update: Following Paragraph 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, a minor modification will be requested for the enlargement of the buffer zone of the component: Cave of La Garma up to 415,78 (ha).

##### • Map(s)

Reason for update: An updated version of the map of the component Altamira cave will be sent to the World Heritage Centre.

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

To a serial site as this, the limitation on the characters makes  
the questionnaire difficult to fill.