

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Bulgaria

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

45

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo	43.717 / 25.967	171.9	0	171.9	1979
Total (ha)		171.9	0	171.9	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Boundaries of Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, reduced from an original having a 1:5,000 scale	21/12/2005	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Vezhdi Rashidov
Ministry of Culture
Minister of Culture

Comment

The name of the Minister of Culture is Peter Stoyanovich.

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Nenov Nikolay
Ruse Regional Historical Museum
Director

Comment

Rousse Regional Museum of History Nikolay Nenov Director

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

Comment

www.museumruse.com/expositions/ivanovo_bg.htm
<http://www.ivanovo.bg/index.php?act=74>
www.bulgariamonasteries.com/ivanovski_manastir.html
bulgariatravel.org/bg/object/10/ivanovski_skalni_cyrkvi

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

Comment

European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) /1992/

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The frescos of the Ivanovo churches reveal an exceptional artistry and a remarkable artistic sensitivity for 14th century painting and Bulgarian medieval art; they are an important achievement in the Christian art of South-Eastern Europe. Posterior to the Khora monastery mosaics (Karia Djami) of 1303 - 10, these frescoes, by their very expressiveness surpass any other historical monuments discovered, characteristic of the Palaeologues style. Neo-classical in spirit and in elements of their subjects, the frescoes represent a departure from the canons of Byzantine iconography. They show close ties with expressive Hellenistic art and a clear preference for the nude, the landscape, an architectural background in a composition, drama, an emotional atmosphere - qualities which combine to make an exceptional masterpiece of the Tarnovo school of painting and monumental art.

The five historical monuments in this group (chapels, churches, etc.), dating from the 13th and 14th centuries, serve as examples that pave the way for the distinctive character development, and mastery in the art of the Second Bulgarian State /1187-1396/. The richness, the variety of the cells, chapels, churches, monastery complexes, the original architectural solutions - all set in a magnificent natural environment - confirm the value of this extraordinary historical grouping.

Criterion (ii): Many churches, chapels, monasteries and cells were cut into the natural rock along the Rusenski Lom river, during the 13-14th centuries. The "Church" frescoes reveal an exceptional artistry and a remarkable artistic sensitivity for 14th century painting and Bulgarian medieval art; they are an important achievement in the Christian art of South-Eastern Europe. Neo-classical in spirit and in elements of their subjects, the frescoes represent a departure from the canons of Byzantine iconography. They show close ties with expressive Hellenistic art and a clear preference for the nude, the landscape, an architectural background in a composition, drama, an emotional atmosphere - qualities which combine to make an exceptional masterpiece.

Criterion (iii): The extensive complexes of monasteries were built between the time of the Second Bulgarian State /1187-1396/ and the conquest of Bulgaria by the Ottoman Empire. The five historical monuments in this group, dating from the 13th and 14th centuries, the richness, the variety of the cells, chapels, churches, monastery complexes, the original architectural solutions - all of that set in a magnificent natural environment - confirm the value of this extraordinary historical grouping.

Integrity

The property encompasses within its boundaries all the components necessary to convey its outstanding universal value but the rock massif, where the churches are situated, has serious stability problems. Over the years a continuous programme of research, and scientific, technical and design projects, have focussed on strengthening and stabilising the rock formation. A programme was carried out for the "Investigation, identification, stabilization and waterproofing of the rock massif" for The Church of the Holy Virgin. All of the statistical analyses are based on processing meteorological and instrument data, and studies.

Authenticity

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Created in the natural cavities of a karst massif, the authenticity of shape, material and substance of the Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo has been preserved. Urgent conservation work has been completed on the valuable 13th and 14th century murals, whilst cleaning, stabilization and presentation of The Church of the Holy Virgin murals has also been carried out. This involved minimal retouching work, and the maximum retention of the original.

In consequence of a rock collapse in the early 20th century, the 13th century ceiling murals from the buried church of St. Archangels, have been rescued and moved to a new substrate. The first stage of work on the 14th century murals of the collapsed St. Todor Church has also been completed.

Protection and management requirements

Through National Legislation the property has been protected, as a "Reserve" since 1965 (Official Gazette No. 84 of 1965). Management is implemented through the Cultural Heritage Law (Official Gazette No.19 of 2009) and subdelegated legislation. This law regulates the research, studying, protection and promotion of the immovable cultural heritage in Bulgaria, and the development of Conservation and Management plans for its inscribed World Heritage List of immovable cultural properties.

Protection is also afforded by Ordinance No. 17 of the President of the Committee for Culture on Definition of Boundaries and Regimes of Use and Protection of Immoveable Cultural Monuments outside Populated Areas (Official Gazette No. 35 of 1979); and The Protected Areas Act (Official Gazette No. 133 of 11 November 1998, as amended and supplemented).

In order to strengthen and stabilize the rock formation, there is a need to pursue the implementation of the conservation measures.

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

(ii)(iii)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Many churches, chapels, monasteries and cells were cut into the natural rock along the Rusenski Lom river, during the 13-14th centuries. The "Church" frescoes reveal an exceptional artistry and a remarkable artistic sensitivity and they are an important achievement in the Christian art of South-Eastern Europe. The frescoes show close ties with expressive Hellenistic art and are an exceptional masterpiece. The richness, the variety of the cells, chapels, churches, monastery complexes, the original architectural solutions confirm the value of this extraordinary historical grouping.

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

We do not find any need to change the SOUV

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

We consider that the current Statement of OUV reflects the outstanding universal value of the Property

Section II-Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

The major problem in the site preservation is related to the structural and static and dynamic stability of the rock massif in the area of "The Church" – the site which has the largest number and best-preserved murals in the whole monastery complex.

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact	Origin			
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities	   				
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure	   				
3.4	Pollution					
3.4.3	Surface water pollution	  				
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.3	Land conversion	  				
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.2	Relative humidity	     				
3.7.5	Dust	  				
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	    				
3.7.7	Pests	  				
3.7.8	Micro-organisms	   				
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	   				
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	    				
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities	   				
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage	   				
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1	Storms	  				
3.10.6	Temperature change	  				
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.2	Earthquake	   				
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	   				
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	
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.2	Relative humidity	localised	frequent	insignificant	high capacity	static
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	high capacity	static
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	localised	frequent	minor	medium capacity	static

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

3.17.1 - Comments

The major problem in the monument preservation is related to the structural and static and dynamic stability of the rock massif in the area of the "Church" – the site which has the largest number and best-preserved murals in the whole monastery complex. National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, held yearly seismic monitoring of Rock-Hewn Churches Air circulation in 'The Church' has been studied in situ. It has been proved that infiltration of surface waters from rain and snow into the rock massif is negligible and limited only to penetration through one of the macro-fissures.

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 both the management authority and 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

World Heritage property is located in a archaeological reserve "Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo" which is guarded as instructed by the Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage Act and by law to him

4.2. Protective Measures

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

Through National Legislation the property has been protected, as a "Reserve" since 1965 (Official Gazette No. 84 of 1965). Management is implemented through the Cultural Heritage Law (Official Gazette No.19 of 2009) and subdelegated legislation. This law regulates the research, studying, protection and promotion of the immovable cultural heritage in Bulgaria, and the development of Conservation and Management plans for its inscribed World Heritage List of immovable cultural properties.

Protection is also afforded by Ordinance No. 17 of the President of the Committee for Culture on Definition of Boundaries and Regimes of Use and Protection of Immoveable Cultural Monuments outside Populated Areas (Official Gazette No. 35 of 1979); and The Protected Areas Act (Official Gazette No. 133 of 11 November 1998, as amended and supplemented).

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Thursday, December 1, 2005

• Question 6.02

The area of the site has been subject to protection, according to the procedure established by national legislation, as a 'reserve' since 1965 (Official Gazette No. 84 of 1965).

Management is implemented by virtue of:

- The Cultural Monuments and Museums Act (promulgated in the Official Gazette No. 29 of 1969, as amended and supplemented);
- Ordinance No. 17 of the President of the Committee for Culture on Definition of Boundaries and Regimes of Use and Protection of Immoveable Cultural Monuments Outside Populated Areas (Official Gazette No. 35 of 1979);
- The Protected Areas Act (Official Gazette No. 133 of 11 November 1998, as amended and supplemented).

Comment

The area of the site has been subject to protection, according to the procedure established by national legislation - Cultural Heritage Act (in force since 10.04.2009) and subdelegated legislation - Ordinance on terms and conditions for presenting cultural properties (in force since 28.03.2014) - The Protected Areas Act (Official Gazette No. 133 of 11 November 1998) - Spatial Planning Act (in force since 31.03.2001 with amendments)

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

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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

According to the Cultural Heritage Act (in force since 10.04.2009) a need to apply the principles of integrated conservation is noted and the types and categories of immovable cultural property are defined, for which conservation and management plans are mandatory required

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the Management Plan and monitoring its effectiveness: National Institute for Cultural Monuments and in the future to be locally implemented by local authorities

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Saturday, December 3, 2005

• **Question 5.04** Plans in place to set up a "steering group":
There are no such plans.

• **Question 5.05**

Overall management system of the site

- Management by the State Party
- Management under protective legislation

Comment

The site is managed by the Russe Regional Historical Museum and by the State Party. Management is conducted under national protective legislation: - Cultural Heritage Act (in force since 10.04.2009) and subdelegated legislation - Ordinance on terms and conditions for presenting cultural properties (in force since 28.03.2014) - The Protected Areas Act (Official Gazette No. 133 of 11 November 1998) - Spatial Planning Act (in force since 31.03.2001 with amendments) - Regulations for: elaboration of conservation and management plans for immovable cultural properties; presentation of cultural properties

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

- Cultural Heritage Act (in force since 10.04.2009) and subdelegated legislation - Ordinance on terms and conditions for presenting cultural properties (in force since 28.03.2014) - The Protected Areas Act (Official Gazette No. 133 of 11 November 1998) - Spatial Planning Act (in force since 31.03.2001 with amendments)

Section II-Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo

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

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

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

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

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is **only partially** being implemented

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

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?

No local communities are resident in or living near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

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

The local residents are not aware of the SOUV and need training in this direction. For the site there is still no conservation and management plan developed, but it is in the

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process of setting an assignment for the preparation of such a plan.

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)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	22%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	0%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	0%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	1%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	75%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	1%
Other grants	1%

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

Title	Year	Amount	Link to source
Measurement equipment for the Churches of Ivanovo and the Monastery of Rila	1994	21000.00	
Total		21000	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are **some** equipment and facilities but overall these are **inadequate**

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

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

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

Trails / routes were made years ago, but they also are not maintained in good condition. There is a need of visitor center.

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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	60%
Seasonal	40%

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

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	Low
Interpretation	Low
Education	Low
Visitor management	Low
Conservation	Medium
Administration	Medium
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low

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

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

The level of human resource expertise is high, but there is a need for language training for broadening the spectrum of foreign language visitors reception, as well as for developing the skills for a better sensory impression. Activities in conservation and restoration of the cultural property are performed by professionals listed in the register of persons entitled to carry out such activities. The register is kept by the Ministry of Culture.

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 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

There are nine scientific articles, regarding the Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo, published in the Proceedings of the Rousse Regional Museum of History, volume X, Rousse, 2006, ISSN: 1311-0942.

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

The major problem in the site preservation is related to the structural and static and dynamic stability of the rock massif in the area of the "Church". National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, held yearly seismic monitoring of Rock-Hewn Churches 2007 - Bulgarian National Committee of ICOMOS implements the project Survey and Inventory Consolidation and Water Proofing of the Church In 2013 construction project has been prepared for the strengthening of the rock massif at the church of "St. Bogoroditza". The project is not concerted due to the lack of a conducted strengthening of an experimental section that would prove the efficiency of the proposed solution.

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

Section II-Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visitor centre	Not provided but needed
Site museum	Not provided but needed
Information booths	Not provided but needed
Guided tours	Poor
Trails / routes	Poor
Information materials	Poor
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Not needed

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

The organization of local folklore festival "The Children of the Rousse Lom River Valley" and the presentation of local cuisine assist the building of awareness and the delivery of information for the site. Trails / routes were made years ago, but they also are not maintained in good condition.

4.7. Visitor Management

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

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

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

Entry tickets and registries
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

In cooperation with the "Rousse Lom" Nature Park there is an information board with 10 points of rulers that appeal for an ecological and preserving behavior on the site.

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

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 **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?

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial 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

The visitors are informed by information boards and the guide, but are also asking for electronic devices and applications for the smartphones, which are inadequate at this time. The development strategy of the Rousse Regional Museum of History contains special provisions concerning development and management of the visitor flow. The key priorities include increasing the capacity of the staff and increasing visitor services, as well as presentation of the site.

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** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

Section II-Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo

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	Poor
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Poor
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

An Ordinance of the Council of Ministers regarding scope, structure, content and methodology for the Conservation and Management plan development was issued. For the site there is still no conservation and management plan developed, but is in the process of setting an assignment for the preparation of such a plan

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

The major problem in the site preservation is related to the structural and static and dynamic stability of the rock massif in the area of the "Church". National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, held yearly seismic monitoring of Rock-Hewn Churches.

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	
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.2	Relative humidity	So far, no criteria has been affected	Regional Historical Museum - Russe is conducting a monitoring of the relative humidity. The State funded the measurements of temperature and humidity of the upper stone layer.	Regional Historical Museum - Russe is conducting a monitoring of the degree of relative humidity.	Permanently	Regional Historical Museum - Russe	In spring there are conditions for condensation of humidity. In 2007 Bulgarian National Committee of ICOMOS implemented the project "Survey and Inventory, Consolidation and Water Proofing of the Church Massif" funded by the World Monument Fund. The survey and full inventory of the massif are done.
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	So far, no criteria has been affected	Regional Historical Museum - Russe is conducting monitoring of the potential effect of water on the state of the frescoes. In the years studies of the hydrological explorations and of the microclimat characteristics of the area have been conducted, as well chemical analysis of the gas environment and the flowing-down water.	Regional Historical Museum - Russe conducts monitoring.	Permanently	Regional Historical Museum - Russe	Air circulation in 'The Church' has been studied in situ. It has been proved that infiltration of surface waters from rain and snow into the rock massif is negligible and limited only to penetration through one of the macro-fissures. In 2007 Bulgarian National Committee of ICOMOS implemented the project "Survey and Inventory, Consolidation and Water Proofing of the Church Massif" funded by the World Monument Fund. The survey and full inventory of the massif are done.
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	So far, no criteria has been affected	For many years monitoring is being conducted of the massif's behaviour during seismic activity (by means of accelerometers submitted to Bulgaria as technical assistance from UNESCO).	Annually seismic monitoring of the site is conducted.	Permanently	National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography; Ministry of Culture	In 2007 BNC of ICOMOS implemented the project "Survey and Inventory, Consolidation and Water Proofing of the Church Massif" funded by the World Monument Fund. In 2013 construction project has been prepared for the strengthening of the rock massif at the church of "St. Bogoroditza". The project is not concerted due to the lack of a conducted strengthening of an experimental section that would prove the efficiency of the proposed solution.

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.4 Financial and Human Resources					
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
4.4.6	Inadequate equipment and facilities	The Regional Historical Museum - Russe look for opportunities and for volunteer support in this direction.	2016-2017	Regional Historical Museum - Russe; Ministry of Culture;	Lack of government and international financing.
4.7 Visitor Management					
4.7.4	Some management of visitor use of the property but this could be improved	The Regional Historical Museum - Russe works on the preparation of an appropriate visitor management plan.	2015	Regional Historical Museum - Russe	The development strategy of the Rousse Regional Museum of History contains special provisions concerning development and management of the visitor flow.

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

The major problem in the monument preservation is related to the structural and static and dynamic stability of the rock massif in the area of the "Church". In 2007 the Bulgarian National Committee of ICOMOS implemented the project „Survey and Inventory, Consolidation and Water Proofing of the Church Massif" funded by the World Monument Fund. In 2013 construction project has been prepared for the strengthening of the rock massif at the church of "St. Bogoroditza". The project is not concerted due to the lack of a conducted strengthening of an experimental section that would prove the efficiency of the proposed solution.

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

Section II-Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo

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

We can recommend actions in direction for UNESCO to become more visible. The nearby archaeological site of the Medieval town of Cherven has almost the same structure of visitors without being a World Heritage site.

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

We have no recommendations in this direction.

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 poor

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	Satisfactory
State Party	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Satisfactory
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

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

Automatically generated in online version

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

The questionnaire is a convenient form for filling in the information and provides a clear topic division. It will furthermore ascertain the respective site's specific needs of better financing and of necessary conservation, restoration and maintenance activities.