

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Rila Monastery

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Bulgaria

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

216

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983







1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
Rila Monastery Complex	0 / 0	8.7	?	8.7	
Orlitsa Convent Complex	0 / 0	0.3	?	0.3	
"Pchelino Convent" Complex	0 / 0	1.2	?	1.2	
"St. Luke Hermitage" Complex	0 / 0	0.4	?	0.4	
"Grave of St. Ivan Rilski" Complex	0 / 0	0.1	?	0.1	
Total (ha)		10.7	0	10.7	

Comment

The buffer zone of the World heritage site Rila Monastery is a single common one around all the components of the property. The area of the buffer zone is 478, 9 ha and this is pointed out in the map sent to the World Heritage Centre in 2007.

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Rila Monastery, scale 1:25000	21/12/2007	
Rila Monastery Complex	21/12/2007	
Orlitsa Convent	21/12/2007	
Pchelino Convent	21/12/2007	
St Luke Hermitage	21/12/2007	
Grave of St Ivan Rilski	21/12/2007	

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. Rila Monastery and the other components of the properties are owned by the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- H.G Evlogii
Rila Monastery
Abbot / Bishop

Comment

Rila Monastery and the other components of the properties are owned by the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

Comment

<http://www.rilamonastery.pmg-blg.com/>
www.bulgarianmonastery.com/bg/rila_monastery.html
rila_monastery@abv.bg

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

Comment

Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe /1985/

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

In its complicated ten-century history the Rila monastery has been the hub of a strong spiritual and artistic influence over the Eastern Orthodox world during medieval times (11th-14th c.). Under Ottoman rule (1400-1878) the monastery influenced the development of the culture and the arts of all Christian nations within the Ottoman Empire. With its architecture, frescos etc. it represents a masterpiece of the creative genius of the Bulgarian people.

Architectural styles have been preserved on the property as historical monuments of considerable time span (11th-19th c.). The basic architectural appearance is now one of the peak examples of building craftsmanship of the Balkan peoples from the early 19th c. As such it has exerted considerable influence on architecture and aesthetics within the Balkan area.

Criterion (vi): Rila Monastery is considered a symbol of the 19th Century Bulgarian Renaissance which imparted Slavic values upon Rila in trying to reestablish an uninterrupted historic continuity.

Integrity

There have been no substantial changes to the integrity of the property since its inscription on the World Heritage List. Planned conservation works, that also involve the medieval and renaissance wood-carving and mural paintings existing in associated churches and chapels of the monastery complex, are being pursued to ensure their proper preservation. Protecting the Monastery from "force effects" is also of major significance. A series of permanent geological engineering observations are being pursued, with associated report recommendations for "ground-structure" strengthening. Based on these results, other preservation and restoration works will

be determined. A development plan is being prepared, and this will propose improvements for the communication and technical infrastructure to assist in preserving the property.

Authenticity

Rila Monastery is the most important spiritual and literary center of the Bulgarian national revival, with an uninterrupted history from the Middle Ages until present times. Reconstruction work was required following a fire, and sections of the monastery, a new church and other structures date to the 18th century. The property fully endorses authenticity requirements regarding location, context, concept, usage, function and tradition, where the spirit and feeling of the site are also properly preserved.

Protection and management requirements

The management is carried out on the basis of:

- Religious Affairs Law - Property Law
- Cultural Heritage Law (Official Gazette No 19 of 2009), and the by-law normative act, 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.
- Legislative regimes for the preservation of the site and its buffer zone are in accordance, with a written statement from the 7.05.1992, of a Commission, appointed with an Order № RD-19-132/24.03.1992 of the Ministry of Culture. In addition to regulating the prohibitions, this also identifies allowed activities in the property and its buffer zone, and sets out the responsibilities of the interested parties, including the state, local institutions and owners.
- The Protected areas Law (Official Gazette No133 of 1998 with amendments) - National Park Rila; Natural Park "Rila Monastery"; Rila Monastery Forest, was proclaimed for natural reserve in 1986;
- Forest law (Official Gazette No125 of 1997 with amendments);
- Management plan of Nature Park "Rila Monastery" has been operational since 2003.

In order to maintain the proper conservation of the monastery, there is a need to implement the development plan of the property.

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

(vi)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Rila Monastery is considered a symbol of the 19th Century Bulgarian Revival which imparted Slavic values upon Rila in trying to reestablish an uninterrupted historic continuity.

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.

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							
3.1.4	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure							
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities							
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure							
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure							
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric							
3.7.1	Wind							
3.7.2	Relative humidity							
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							
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events							
3.10.1	Storms							
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events							
3.11.2	Earthquake							
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)							
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species							
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species							
3.13	Management and institutional factors							
3.13.1	Low 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

No factor is both current and negative.

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

3.17.1 - Comments

3.8.1. The Rila Monastery is a functioning monastery. The complex has two museums with several museum exhibitions.

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 zone of the World heritage site Rila Monastery is a single common one around all the components of the property. The area of the buffer zone is 478, 9 ha and this is pointed out in the map sent to the World Heritage Centre in 2007.

4.2. Protective Measures

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

- Religious Affairs Law - Property Law
- Cultural Heritage Law (Official Gazette No 19 of 2009), and the by-law normative act, 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.

- Legislative regimes for the preservation of the site and its buffer zone are in accordance, with a written statement from the 7.05.1992, of a Commission, appointed with an Order № RD-19-132/24.03.1992 of the Ministry of Culture. In addition to regulating the prohibitions, this also identifies allowed activities in the property and its buffer zone, and sets out the responsibilities of the interested parties, including the state, local institutions and owners.

- The Protected areas Law (Official Gazette No133 of 1998 with amendments) - National Park Rila; Natural Park "Rila Monastery"; Rila Monastery Forest, was proclaimed for natural reserve in 1986;

- Forest law (Official Gazette No125 of 1997 with amendments);

- Management plan of Nature Park "Rila Monastery" has been operational since 2003.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Wednesday, November 30, 2005

• Question 6.02

The management is done on the basis of:

- the Law on Religious Affairs

- the Law on property

- the Law on monuments of culture and museums /SN, nr.29 from 1969 with amendments and complements/ and the by-law normative act.

Regulates the research, studying, protection and promotion of the cultural monuments at the territory of Bulgaria.

According to this Law towns and settlements with particular historic, archaeological and museum significance are declared reserves. The Ministry of Culture performs supreme supervision on them through its bodies; local self government and other public and state bodies– e.g. the municipal councils and ,mayors – also supervise at local level.

According to the legislation, with a written statement from the 7.05.1992, of a Commission, appointed with an Order № RD-19-132/24.03.1992 of the MC are accepted regimes for the preservation of the site and its protective zone. With them are being regulated the prohibition regimes and the allowed activities in the area of the site and its protective zone, and the responsibilities of the interested state and local institutions and owners.

Comment

The management is done on the basis of: Religious Denominations Act (Official Gazette No120 of 29.12.2002) Cultural Heritage Act (Official Gazette No 19 of 2009) Spatial Planning Act (in force since 31.03.2001 with amendments) Protected areas Law (Official Gazette No133 of 1998 with amendments) National Park Rila; Natural Park "Rila Monastery"; Rila Monastery Forest, was proclaimed for natural reserve

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 **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

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

According to the legislation, with a written statement from the 7.05.1992, of a Commission, appointed with an Order № RD-19-132/24.03.1992 of the MC are accepted regimes for preservation of the site and its buffer zone. Management plan of Nature Park "Rila Monastery" has been operational since 2003.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Steering group: does not exist at this time, but the Monastery is run by the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church There is no site manager at this time
Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; local; Orthodox Church

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

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

Submitted on Tuesday, November 29, 2005

• **Question 5.04** Plans in place to set up a "steering group:
Comment to item 05.02 above: There is no steering committee established. The Monastery complex is run by the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, by the Abbot of the monastery. The site is supervised by the specialized state bodies - the Ministry of Culture and the National Institute for Cultural Monuments in terms of safeguarding and preservation of its architectural and cultural values.

• **Question 5.05**

Overall management system of the site

- Management by the State Party
- Management under protective legislation
- Management under traditional protective measures or customary law

Comment

The abbot of Rila Monastery manages the property. The site is managed according to the Bulgarian legislation. According to the legislation, with a written statement from the 7.05.1992, of a Commission, appointed with an Order № RD-19-

132/24.03.1992 of the MC are accepted regimes for preservation of the site and its buffer zone. Management plan of Nature Park "Rila Monastery" has been operational since 2003.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Religious Denominations Act (Official Gazette No120 of 29.12.2002) Cultural Heritage Act (Official Gazette No 19 of 2009) Spatial Planning Act (in force since 31.03.2001) Protected areas Law (Official Gazette No133 of 1998 with amendments) National Park Rila; Natural Park "Rila Monastery"; Rila Monastery Forest, was proclaimed for natural reserve Ordinance on terms and conditions for presenting cultural properties (in force since 28.03.2014)

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

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

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

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

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

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

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

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

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

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)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	11%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	1%
Other grants	66%

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

Comment

Measurement equipment for the Churches of Ivanovo and the Monastery of Rila Decision: Approved Decision by: Bureau Approved Amount: 10,500 USD Amount Implemented: 21,000 USD Balance Available on Request: -10,500 USD Decision Date: Jul 9, 1994 Previous Id: 1994-009 Type: conservation Category: culture

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 **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

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?

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

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	High
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	Medium
Administration	Low
Risk preparedness	Low
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

4.4.15.4. Activities in conservation and restoration of cultural properties 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. National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, held yearly seismic monitoring.

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

E. K. Λίτσας, Τα χειρόγραφα της μονής Αγίου Ιωάννου Ρίλας. - Νέα Ρώμη: Rivista di ricerche bizantinistiche, 7, 2010, 399-409 (graffiti of Greek manuscripts in the library of the monastery). Enev, Michael, Rila Monastery, 2nd ed., S., 2011.

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

2007-2009 – photogramatic documentation of the chapels in the building of the monastery and Hreliovata kula. 2009-2012 – Digitalize the facade’s photogrammetric plans of the monastery buildings and sections of the church; Geodetic detailed survey floor plans at all levels of the Rila Monastery including the church and the Heilovata kula. National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, held yearly seismic monitoring. The engineering geological report prepared on the basis of the obtained data recommends that the site should be considered as a system of “soil and structure”

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In **one location and easily visible** to visitors

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

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Average
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Not applicable
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Excellent
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 and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

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

World Heritage status has 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	Excellent
Information booths	Not needed
Guided tours	Excellent
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Not needed

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	Static
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Decreasing

Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

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

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

Rila Monastery is open to visitors from 8am to 6pm. The monastery sites (Hreliovata kula, Ethnographic museum and the guest rooms from the Bulgarian Revival; Monastery Farm, Church history museum: iconographic exposition) are served by tourist guides speaking Bulgarian and English. To visit the monastery the entrance fees are not collected. The tickets are required for visits in exhibitions of the museum.

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

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **effectively managed** and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value

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

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

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

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

In 2007, the Rila Monastery opened its renovated Church History Museum, which is overhauled, and its exposition is extended and improved Rila Monastery is open to visitors from 8am to 6pm. The rich possessions of the monastery allowed forming fourteen thematic expositions included in the monastery and the churches beyond. The monastery sites (Hreliova kula, Ethnographic museum and the guest rooms from the Bulgarian Revival; Monastery Farm, Church history museum: iconographic exposition) are served by tourist guides speaking Bulgarian and English. The tickets are required for visits in exhibitions of the museums.

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

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	Excellent
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 Rila Monastery there is still no management plan elaborated.

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

National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, held yearly seismic monitoring. The engineering geological report prepared on the basis of the obtained data recommends that the site should be considered as a system of "soil and structure", where strengthening should be conducted in the soil ground, while the intervention in the structure should be reduced to the possible minimum.

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

No factor is both current and negative.

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

The behaviour of the terrain and the building at times of seismic activity has been monitored since 1995 (by means of accelerometers submitted by UNESCO as technical assistance to Bulgaria). The engineering geological report prepared on the basis of the obtained data recommends that the site should be considered as a system of "soil and structure", where strengthening should be conducted in the soil ground, while the intervention in the structure should be reduced to the possible minimum.

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	No impact
Political support for conservation	Very 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

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 space dedicated for answers and comments is quite insufficient. Some of the questions could be better formulated and explained. The provided answers do not always allow an opportunity for establishing an accordance with an existing situation.

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	Poor

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Not all of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The World Heritage Convention
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Monitoring and reporting
Management effectiveness

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

UNESCO	Satisfactory
State Party	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Satisfactory
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

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

• Geographic Information Table

Reason for update: The buffer zone of the World heritage site Rila Monastery is a single common one around all the components of the property. The area of the buffer zone is 478, 9 ha and this is pointed out in the map sent to the World Heritage Centre in 2007.

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