

**1. World Heritage Property Data**

**1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property**

Messel Pit Fossil Site

**1.2 - World Heritage Property Details**

**State(s) Party(ies)**

- Germany

**Type of Property**

natural

**Identification Number**

720bis

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

1995

**1.3 - Geographic Information Table**

Name	Coordinates (longitude / latitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Messel Pit Fossil Site	49.917 / 8.754	42	22.5	64.5	1995
<b>Total (ha)</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>64.5</b>	

**1.4 - Map(s)**

Title	Date	Link to source
Messel Pit Fossil site includes 200m Gauß-Krüger grid, scale 1:2,000	04/10/1994	
Map of Inscribed Property 2010	20/04/2010	

**1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property**

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

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

Hessisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft & Kunst Dietrich Reinhard  
Rheinstrasse 23-25  
D- 65185 Wiesbaden Germany  
R.Dietrich@HMWK.Hessen.de +49 611 323 463 +49 611 323 499 <http://www.hmwk.hessen.de>

**Comment**

New email-adress: Reinhard.Dietrich@hmwk.hessen.de

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

- [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
- [Fossilienlagerstätte Grube Messel \(Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission\)\(german only\)](#)
- [UNESCO Commission of Germany](#)
- [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

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

**Comment**

This site is still protected by the Federal Mining Law of Germany and the Monument Authority of the State of Hesse: Bodendenkmalpflege.

**2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

**2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**

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

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

The Committee inscribed the nominated property on the basis of criterion (i), considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as the single best site which contributes to the understanding of the Eocene, when mammals became firmly established in all principal land ecosystems. Furthermore, the committee commended the German Government for their support of the high standards of paleontological research undertaken

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

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

**3. Factors Affecting the Property**

**3.14. Other factor(s)**

**3.14.1 - Other factor(s)**

Federal Mining Law Germany regularly

### 3.15. Factors Summary Table

#### 3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact				Origin	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>						
3.1.3	Industrial areas						
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities						
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>						
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation						
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Sudden ecological or geological events</b>						
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition						
<b>3.13</b>	<b>Management and institutional factors</b>						
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities						
3.13.2	High 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
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Sudden ecological or geological events</b>				
3.11.5	<b>Erosion and siltation/ deposition</b>	restricted	one off or rare	minor	high capacity
					static

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

#### 3.17.1 - Comments

Processes are under control by management.

## 4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

### 4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

#### 4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

#### 4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property **are adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

#### 4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property **are known** by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

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

## 4.2. Protective Measures

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

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

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

Submitted on Tuesday, October 18, 2005

- **Question 6.02**
  - 1st Land Use Plan (1983) – no longer enacted
  - 2nd Land Use Plan – draft
  - Building Plan – draft
  - Landscape plan (2004)

All these plans are or will be the basis for the overall development of the site.

The protection and preservation of the Messel Pit is guaranteed by an agreement between Land Hesse and the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, the

operator of the mine. Operation is governed by the Federal Mining Act.

#### 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

## 4.3. Management System / Management Plan

### 4.3.1 - Management System

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

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

Submitted on Tuesday, October 18, 2005

- **Question 5.02**  
Steering group or similar management committee has been set up to guide the management of the site

- **Question 5.03**

**Set up date:** 1995

**Function:** Marketing the Messel Pit; public and didactic presentation of the fossils found and granting access to the public on behalf of Land Hesse as the owner of the pit; participation in all administrative acts.

**Mandate:** Marketing the Messel Pit; public and didactic presentation of the fossils found and granting access to the public on behalf of Land Hesse as the owner of the pit; participation in all administrative acts.

**Constituted:** legal

- **Question 5.04** Plans in place to set up a "steering group:  
No plans are in place

- **Question 5.05**  
Overall management system of the site
  - Management by the State Party
  - Management under protective legislation
  - Management under contractual agreement between the State Party and a third party

**4.3.2 - Management Documents**

**Comment**

Contract agreed are documented within the Hesse Ministry of Science and Art.

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

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

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

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

**4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

**4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?**

**No indigenous peoples** are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

**4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area**

**surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?**

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

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

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

**4.4. Financial and Human Resources**

**4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)**

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	33%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	44%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	2%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	1%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	20%
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)**

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

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

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

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

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

**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**

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

Full-time	93%
Part-time	7%

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

Permanent	93%
Seasonal	7%

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

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

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

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

**4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines**

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Good
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Good
Education	Non-existent
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Non-existent
Tourism	Non-existent
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

**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	Not applicable
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Not available
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	Medium
Administration	Not available
Risk preparedness	Not available
Tourism	Not available
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Not available

**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 **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

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

**4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects**

**4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

**4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is **considerable** research but it is **not directed** towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?**

Research results are **shared 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**

Details please visit [www.senckenberg.de](http://www.senckenberg.de) and [www.grube-messel.de](http://www.grube-messel.de)

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

From 2008-2012 there have been published several 100 papers in biological, palaeontological, geological journals on inter-/national level. See homepage [www.senckenberg.de](http://www.senckenberg.de). Visitor and education related publications have also been published in adequate journals. Comment to 4.5.4 and 4.5.5. Data have high volume. Selection is difficult - use? Your question needs topic specification to answer it.

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

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

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

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

Visitor centre	Excellent
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Not needed
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Not provided but needed
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	Decreasing
Two years ago	Major Increase (100%+)
Three years ago	Static
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
Visitor surveys

**4.7.3 - Visitor management documents**

**Comment**

Visitor management results are published in scientific papers. See [www.grube-messel.de](http://www.grube-messel.de)

**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 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**

**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	Not applicable
Local communities	Not applicable
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Average
Industry	Not applicable
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

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

**No relevant** Committee recommendations to implement

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

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

**4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs**

**4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)**

Please refer to question 5.2

**5. Summary and Conclusions**

**5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property**

**5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property**

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/deposition	no	none	regularly	steadily	Senckenberg Society for Nature Research

**5.2. Summary - Management Needs**

**5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs**

Answers provided have not outlined any serious management need.

**5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property**

**5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity**

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

**5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity**

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

**5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value**

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

**5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values**

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

**5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property**

**5.4.1 - Comments**

**6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise**

**6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas**

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	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	No impact
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Very positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Very 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
Non Governmental Organization

**6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?**

yes

**6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire**

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

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Very 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**

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

UNESCO	None
State Party	None
Site Managers	None
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

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

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