

**1. World Heritage Property Data**

**1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property**

Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst

**1.2 - World Heritage Property Details**

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

- Hungary
- Slovakia

**Type of Property**

natural

**Identification Number**

725ter

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

1995, 2000

**1.3 - Geographic Information Table**

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
Component including Aggtelek , Hungary	0 / 0	16365	9566	25931	1995
Component of Szendrő-Rudabánya Hill , Hungary	0 / 0	3325	9567	12892	1995
Component of Esztramos Hill , Hungary	0 / 0	195	9567	9762	1995
Component neighbouring Silica and Jasov , Slovakia	0 / 0	12055.19	12778.11	24833.3	1995
Component of Plešivec plateau , Hungary	0 / 0	12055.19	12778.11	24833.3	1995
Component of Koniar plateau (including Ochtinská Aragonite Cave) , Slovakia	0 / 0	12055.19	12778.11	24833.3	1995
Dobšinská Ice Cave , Slovakia	0 / 0	600	19763	20363	2000
<b>Total (ha)</b>		<b>56650.57</b>	<b>86797.33</b>	<b>143447.9</b>	

**Comment**

The status of the site was changed, through an amendment of related legislation in Slovakia, from 'Protected Landscape Area' to 'National Park Slovak Karst' in 2002, which resulted in a minor modification to the area of the site.

**1.4 - Map(s)**

**Comment**

The status of the site was changed, through an amendment of related legislation in Slovakia, from 'Protected Landscape Area' to 'National Park Slovak Karst' in 2002, which resulted in a minor modification to the area of the site. We intend to submit an updated, good quality map concerted between the

two SPs and after consultation with the WH Centre decide on the appropriate procedure (MBM or clarification).

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

**Comment**

Mr. János Lázár, Minister Responsible for the Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister's Office, H 1357 Budapest, Pf. 6, Tel.: +36-1-795 500, E-mail: titkarsag@me.gov.hu National Focal Point Dr Gábor Soós, Head of Division of World Heritage and International Relations Gyula Forster National Centre for CH Management Ladislav Ambros, National Focal Point for World Nature Heritage Of the Slovak Republic, Department for Landscape Development Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

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

- Veress Balázs  
Aggtelek National Park  
Head of Division

**Comment**

Aggtelek National Park Directorate Veress Balázs director Tengersizem oldal 1. 3758 Jósvafő Hungary Telephone: +36-48-506 000 Email: info.anp@t-online.hu State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic Mr. Gaal Ludovit, RNDr. Slovak Caves Administration Hodzova 11, 031 01 Liptovsky Mikulas Slovak Republic Telephone: +421-903235246 E-mail: gaal@ssj.sk, caves@ssj.sk

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

1. [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
2. [Aggtelek National Park \(Hungary\)](#)
3. [Slovak Caves Administration](#)
4. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

**Comment**

Existing links should be deleted and replaced with these: www.anp.nemzetipark.gov.hu www.ssj.sk http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/725

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

• Protective legislation is in place in Slovakia, but no details are given. Protective legislation in Hungary: 7/1984 OKTH Decree (establishment of the National Park); Act 1996/LIII on nature conservation (all caves are under ex lege protection); 11/1997 KTM Decree and 2/2001 KöM decree (successive enlargements of the Aggtelek National Park) Management Plan of Aggtelek National Park and Management Plan of the caves of Aggtelek Karst.

**Comment**

A part of the property in both Slovakia and Hungary is classified as a National Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme. Baradla Cave and Dómica Cave are Ramsar sites. All caves within the property are designated as special biotopes under Natura 2000. 13/1997 KTM Decree instead of 11/1997 KTM Decree. Protective legislation in Slovakia: Act 543/2002 §24. Caves and waterfalls. more link: http://www.ssj.sk/en

## **2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

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

#### **Comment**

Committee Decision 37COM 8E Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

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

(viii)

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

Different type of cave genesis: streamways, vertical shaft caves, collapsed dolines, tectonic fissure caves, syngenetic spring caves, hypogenetic caves shaped by rising waters under freatic circumstances. Morphological heterogeneity of the bedrock, diversity of speleotherms. More than 500 troglobiont and troglaphyl animal species. The caves preserved different prehistoric cultures spanning 35 000 year, among them several European significance paleontological sites.

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

No comment.

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

No comment.

## **3. Factors Affecting the Property**

### **3.14. Other factor(s)**

#### **3.14.1 - Other factor(s)**

No other factor.

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact					Origin	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>							
3.1.1	Housing							
3.1.2	Commercial development							
3.1.3	Industrial areas							
3.1.4	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure							
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities							
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>							
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure							
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure							
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Services Infrastructures</b>							
3.3.1	Water infrastructure							
3.3.3	Non-renewable energy facilities							
3.3.4	Localised utilities							
3.3.5	Major linear utilities							
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>							
3.4.2	Ground water pollution							
3.4.3	Surface water pollution							
3.4.4	Air pollution							
3.4.5	Solid waste							
3.4.6	Input of excess energy							
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Biological resource use/modification</b>							
3.5.3	Land conversion							
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals							
3.5.5	Crop production							
3.5.8	Commercial hunting							
3.5.9	Subsistence hunting							
3.5.10	Forestry /wood production							
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Physical resource extraction</b>							
3.6.1	Mining							
3.6.2	Quarrying							
3.6.4	Water (extraction)							
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Local conditions affecting physical fabric</b>							
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)							
3.7.8	Micro-organisms							
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>							
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage							
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community							
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation							
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Other human activities</b>							

Name		Impact				Origin	
3.9.1	Illegal activities						
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage						
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Climate change and severe weather events</b>						
3.10.1	Storms						
3.10.2	Flooding						
3.10.3	Drought						
3.10.6	Temperature change						
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Sudden ecological or geological events</b>						
3.11.2	Earthquake						
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition						
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)						
<b>3.12</b>	<b>Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species</b>						
3.12.1	Translocated species						
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species						
<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>3.3 Services Infrastructures</b>					
<b>3.3.3 Non-renewable energy facilities</b>	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	static
<b>3.3.4 Localised utilities</b>	restricted	one off or rare	minor	no capacity and / or resources	static
<b>3.4 Pollution</b>					
<b>3.4.3 Surface water pollution</b>	localised	one off or rare	minor	no capacity and / or resources	static
<b>3.6 Physical resource extraction</b>					
<b>3.6.2 Quarrying</b>	localised	one off or rare	insignificant	no capacity and / or resources	static
<b>3.6.4 Water (extraction)</b>	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	no capacity and / or resources	static
<b>3.10 Climate change and severe weather events</b>					
<b>3.10.3 Drought</b>	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	no capacity and / or resources	static

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

#### 3.17.1 - Comments

No comment.

## 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 **do not limit** the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value **but they could be improved**

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

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but **are not known by local residents / communities / landowners.**

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

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but **are not known by local residents / communities/landowners.**

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

No comment.

### 4.2. Protective Measures

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

The Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst are outstanding for the large number of complex, diverse and relatively intact caves concentrated into a relatively small area. Located at the north-eastern border of Hungary and the south-eastern border of Slovakia, this exceptional group of 712 caves, recorded at time of inscription, lies under a protected area of 56,651 ha and a larger buffer zone.

All of the caves are State-owned and their protection is guaranteed by the Act no. LIII. 1996 on nature protection in Hungary and by the Slovak Constitution no. 90/2001, and the Act of Nature protection and Landscape no. 543/2002 in Slovakia, irrespective of ownership or protection status of the

surface areas. However, in both countries most of the surface area of the property has National Park designation.

#### Comment

Over 1000 caves are known today. Further legislation in Hungary include Act 77/2011 on World Heritage; KTH [Bureau for Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation] Decree 7/1984 on the establishment of Aggtelek National Park; KöM [Ministry for the Environment] Decree 2/2001 on the extension of Aggtelek National Park; Government Decree 275/2004 on Sites of Community Importance; KvVM [Ministry for the Environment and Water] Decree 14/2010.

#### 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

No comment.

### 4.3. Management System / Management Plan

#### 4.3.1 - Management System

Aggtelek Karst is administered in Hungary by the Aggtelek National Park Directorate and the Slovak Karst is managed by the Slovak Karst National Park Directorate (surface) and Slovak Caves Administration (caves). These administrative bodies carry out joint projects including research, protection and monitoring.

The main protection and management requirement is to ensure strict control over surface activities in order to avoid agricultural pollution, deforestation and soil erosion that may affect the quality and quantity of water infiltrating the karst.

• Steering group: Formally constituted in Hungary in 1985; legally constituted in Slovakia in 1970  
Based on the national World Heritage Act of 2011, a new management plan will be elaborated, as well as threats and preservation measures will be regularly monitored and reported to the National Assembly, while the management plan will be reviewed at least every seven years.  
Ministers carrying out state tasks related to the Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst in agreement with the minister responsible for culture:

- Minister responsible for development policy
- Minister responsible for organising public administration
- Minister responsible for nature protection
- Minister responsible for spatial planning
- Minister responsible for settlement development and settlement planning
- Minister responsible for tourism

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

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

Submitted on Tuesday, November 1, 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:** 1985

**Function:** It is an committee of supplies, trustee

**Mandate:** continuous

**Constituted:** formal

• **Question 5.05**

Overall management system of the site

- Management under protective legislation
- Management under contractual agreement between the State Party and a third party

**4.3.2 - Management Documents**

**Comment**

The Nature Conservation Management Plan of the Aggtelek National Park is under development. According to the national World Heritage Act for natural world heritages sites the conservation plan is accepted as World Heritage management plan.

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

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

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

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

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

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

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

No comment.

**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**

Aggtelek National Park Directorate was designated as site manager at 2013. The site manager is supported by the States to perform their duties. The Management Plan of the Aggtelek National Park is under development, and it is acceptable as WH Management Plan. The proper implementation of the Management Plan is the Site Manger's task.

**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)	40%
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.)	40%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	5%
Other grants	15%

**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 **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**

No comment.

**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	70%
Seasonal	30%

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

Paid	60%
Volunteer	40%

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

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

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

No comment.

**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 a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to 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**

1. Jakal,J.,Bella P. et al. 2008: Caves of the World Heritage in Slovakia, Slovak Caves Administration Liptovsky Mikulas,168p. 2. Gaal,L., 2008: Geodynamics and development of caves in the Slovak Karst, Slovak Caves Administration Liptovsky Mikulas, 166p., 3.Szekely K. 2005, Baradla Barlang, Aggtelek National Park, 4.Bartha C., Tolnay Zs.2005: Varazslatos karsztvidék, Aggtelek National Park,124p

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

No comment.

**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	Average
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Average

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

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

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

World Heritage status has 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	Poor
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Site museum	Poor
Information booths	Poor
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Poor
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Poor

**4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building**  
Need more educational trails.

**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	Static
Four years ago	Decreasing
Five years ago	Decreasing

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

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Visitor surveys
Other

**4.7.3 - Visitor management documents**

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

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

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

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

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

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

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

No comment.

**4.8. Monitoring**

**4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or**



**improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?**

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

**4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups**

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Average
Local / Municipal authorities	Non-existent
Local communities	Non-existent
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Average
Industry	Non-existent
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**

No comment.

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

No comment.

**4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs****4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)**

Please refer to question 5.2

## 5. Summary and Conclusions

### 5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

#### 5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Services Infrastructures</b>						
<b>3.3.3</b>	<b>Non-renewable energy facilities</b>	It only affects the surface buffer zone, the caves can be affected only in the case of an occasional industrial accident.	Must take into consideration in the management plan	Karst water monitoring is maintained.	in progress	Property manager in cooperation with the management of the energy facilities.	No comment
<b>3.3.4</b>	<b>Localised utilities</b>	The lack of the sewage system in the buffer zone can endanger the underground world of the karst.	Building up the sewage system is under development or planned most of the buffer zone areas.	Karst water monitoring is maintained.	in progress	Local township municipalities, Water and sewage work companies	No comment
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>						
<b>3.4.3</b>	<b>Surface water pollution</b>	The rainwater runoff and sewage into the karst from non karstic agricultural areas is the most relevant impact.	The pollution must be minimized by agricultural restrictions, and environmental law must be enforced. This will be elaborated in the management plan.	Karst water monitoring is maintained.	in progress	Property manager in cooperation with responsible ministries.	In this area the surface water pollution is directly generate groundwater pollution as well.
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Physical resource extraction</b>						
<b>3.6.2</b>	<b>Quarrying</b>	On the Esztramos Hill there is a big limestone quarry, but it does not operate anymore.	No action need.	No monitoring need.	Under development	Property manager	The positive effect of the quarrying, that several caves was explored in consequence of the mining activities.
<b>3.6.4</b>	<b>Water (extraction)</b>	There are more water extraction point from the karst for drinking water purposes (eg.: Babot-kút, Szabó-kút), but it does not mean big amount of water, mainly for local purposes.	Must take into consideration in the management plan, and the quality of the water must be preserved.	The quality of the water is monitored regularly.	In progress	Water work companies	No comment
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Climate change and severe weather events</b>						
<b>3.10.3</b>	<b>Drought</b>	Water scarcity and drought on the surface can also affects groundwater, and appear in caves.	Must take into consideration in the management plan.	Karst water monitoring is maintained.	In progress	Property manager	No comment

### 5.2. Summary - Management Needs

#### 5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

<b>4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones</b>						
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
<b>4.1.4</b>	<b>The boundaries of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities / landowners</b>	Information exchange in different platforms.	2014.	Aggtelek National Park and the State Nature Conservancy, Banska Bystrica, operated through its division of the Slovak Cave Administration in Liptovsky Mikulas.	No comment	
<b>4.1.5</b>	<b>The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities/landowners</b>	Information exchange in different platforms.	2014	Aggtelek National Park and the State Nature Conservancy, Banska Bystrica, operated through its division of the Slovak Cave Administration in Liptovsky Mikulas.	No comment	
<b>4.4 Financial and Human Resources</b>						

4.4.6	<b>Inadequate equipment and facilities</b>	Several infrastructure projects has been carried out in the last years, the reconstruction works in the show parts of the Baradla cave; reconstruction of the lightning system in several caves (Vass Imre cave and Rákóczi cave).	No timeframe	Aggtelek National Park Directorate and the State Nature Conservancy, Banska Bystrica, operated through its division of the Slovak Cave Administration in Liptovsky Mikulas.	No comment
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**5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property**

**5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity**

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

**5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**5.4.1 - Comments**

No comment.

**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	No impact
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Very positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	No impact
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

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

No comment.

**6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report**

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
External experts

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

yes

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

The length of the text boxes is not enough to detail the required information (eg. Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value, or published papers). Could be useful to have the possibility to attach other documents.

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

UNESCO	Fair
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Fair

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

Most of the required information was accessible

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

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
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	None
State Party	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Satisfactory
Advisory Bodies	None

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

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

Reason for update: Committee Decision 37COM 8E Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

• **Geographic Information Table**

Reason for update: The status of the site was changed, through an amendment of related legislation in Slovakia, from 'Protected Landscape Area' to 'National Park Slovak Karst' in 2002, which resulted in a minor modification to the area of the site.

• **Map(s)**

Reason for update: The status of the site was changed, through an amendment of related legislation in Slovakia, from 'Protected Landscape Area' to 'National Park Slovak Karst' in 2002, which resulted in a minor modification to the area of the site. We intend to submit an updated, good quality map concerted between the two SPs and after consultation with the WH Centre decide on the appropriate procedure (MBM or clarification).

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

No comment.