

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Curonian Spit

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Lithuania
- Russian Federation

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

994


Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2000

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Curonian Spit	55.275 / 20.962	33021	0	33021	2000
Total (ha)		33021	0	33021	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Site Map - Curonian Spit	01/01/2000	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Ruta Baskyte
The State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment, the National Coordinator for Natural Heritage of Lithuania
Director
- Grigory E. Ordzhonikidze
Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO
Executive Secretary

Comment

To change into: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, e-mail: info@am.lt; Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO, Šv. Jono g. 11, LT-01123 Vilnius, LT, e-mail: lietuva@unesco.lt, r.balkaite@unesco.lt; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Donskoy, e-mail: fominykh_ira@mail.ru; Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, Mr. Grigory E. Ordzhonikidze, 32/ 34 Smolenskaya-Sennaya Sq.121200 Moscow, RF, e-mail: unescorussia@mail.ru

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Lina Dikšaitė
Kuršių nerija (Curonian spit) national park administration
Curonian spit
- Anatolij Kalina
NP "Curonian Spit" (Russia)

Comment

To change into: Kuršių Nerija (Curonian Spit) National Park Administration Deputy Director Ms. Lina Dikšaitė, Naglių str. 8, LT-93123 Neringa, Lithuania Tel/Fax: +370 46951224, e-mail: lina.diksaite@nerija.lt; Kurshskaja Kosa (Curonian Spit)

National Park Administration Head of Scientific Department Ms. Yulia Shidlovskaya 7 Lesnaya Street, Village of Rybachy, Zelenograd District, Kaliningrad Region, 238535 Russian Federation, Tel.: +840 12 310056, e-mail: shidlovskayayulia@gmail.com

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [Greenpeace Russia](http://www.greenpeace.ru)
2. [Kursiu Nerija National Park](http://www.kursiu-nerija.lt)

Comment

To change into: Kurshskaja Kosa National Park (RF) www.park-kosa.ru; Kuršių Nerija (Curonian Spit) National Park (LT) www.nerija.lt, nerija.am.lt; Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO www.unesco.lt/kultura/pasaulio-paveldas/pasaulio-paveldas-lietuvoje/kursiu-nerija; Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO unesco.ru/en/?module=objects&action=view&id=15; World Heritage List: whc.unesco.org/en/list/994; Natural Heritage Protection Fund (Russian Federation) www.nhpfund.ru

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

Comment

Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), ratified by Lithuania and the Russian Federation. Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, ratified by Lithuania and the Russian Federation. UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003, ratified by Lithuania. European Landscape Convention 2000, ratified by Lithuania.

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Curonian Spit is adopted in 2014 (Decision: 38 COM 8E).

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

(v)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Characteristic panoramas and the silhouette from the Curonian Lagoon. The spatial-planned structure and architecture of villages (wooden fishermen's houses and professionally designed buildings of the 19th century) and the elements of the marine cultural heritage. The natural dunes, and a man-made protective coastal dune ridge, forests with unique sand flora and fauna. The social-cultural traditions, spirituality and the social perception of the area.

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

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Curonian Spit is adopted in 2014 (Decision: 38 COM 8E)

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

No additional factors.

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact						Origin
3.1	Buildings and Development							
3.1.1	Housing							
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							
3.2.2	Air transport infrastructure							
3.2.3	Marine transport infrastructure							
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure							
3.3	Services Infrastructures							
3.3.2	Renewable energy facilities							
3.3.4	Localised utilities							
3.3.5	Major linear utilities							
3.4	Pollution							
3.4.1	Pollution of marine waters							
3.4.3	Surface water pollution							
3.4.4	Air pollution							
3.4.5	Solid waste							
3.5	Biological resource use/modification							
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources							
3.5.2	Aquaculture							
3.5.3	Land conversion							
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals							
3.5.5	Crop production							
3.5.7	Subsistence wild plant collection							
3.5.10	Forestry /wood production							
3.6	Physical resource extraction							
3.6.3	Oil and gas							
3.6.4	Water (extraction)							
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric							
3.7.1	Wind							
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)							
3.7.7	Pests							
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage							
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses							
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage							
3.8.3	Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting							
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system							
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community							
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation							
3.9	Other human activities							
3.9.1	Illegal activities							
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events							

	Name	Impact						Origin	
3.10.1	Storms								
3.10.6	Temperature change								
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events								
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition								
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)								
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species								
3.12.1	Translocated species								
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species								
3.12.3	Invasive / alien freshwater species								
3.12.4	Invasive / alien marine species								
3.12.5	Hyper-abundant species								
3.13	Management and institutional factors								
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities								
3.13.2	High impact research / monitoring activities								
3.13.3	Management activities								
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside			

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend	
3.1 Buildings and Development						
3.1.1	Housing	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	decreasing
3.1.4	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.2 Transportation Infrastructure						
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	static
3.3 Services Infrastructures						
3.3.4	Localised utilities	restricted	on-going	minor	low capacity	static
3.3.5	Major linear utilities	restricted	on-going	minor	low capacity	static
3.4 Pollution						
3.4.1	Pollution of marine waters	localised	on-going	insignificant	low capacity	static
3.4.3	Surface water pollution	restricted	one off or rare	minor	medium capacity	static
3.4.4	Air pollution	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	no capacity and / or resources	static
3.4.5	Solid waste	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.5 Biological resource use/modification						
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.5.5	Crop production	restricted	one off or rare	minor	low capacity	static
3.5.7	Subsistence wild plant collection	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.1	Wind	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	significant	high capacity	static
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	low capacity	static
3.7.7	Pests	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	low capacity	static
3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage						
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage	localised	on-going	significant	medium capacity	decreasing
3.8.3	Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system	localised	on-going	significant	low capacity	static
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	restricted	on-going	minor	low capacity	static
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend	
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	high capacity	decreasing
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1	Storms	localised	one off or rare	significant	medium capacity	static
3.10.6	Temperature change	widespread	frequent	minor	low capacity	increasing
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	restricted	one off or rare	significant	medium capacity	static
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.1	Translocated species	restricted	on-going	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	restricted	on-going	minor	low capacity	increasing
3.12.3	Invasive / alien freshwater species	localised	on-going	insignificant	low capacity	static
3.12.4	Invasive / alien marine species	localised	on-going	insignificant	low capacity	static
3.12.5	Hyper-abundant species	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing

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

3.17.1 - Comments

The Curonian Spit is a trans-boundary area regulated by different legal and management systems in Lithuania and Russian Federation. The difference in amount of scientific and other data in separate parts is noticeable. Hence it is complicated to identify factors that equally affect the property in both countries and have the same spatial and temporal scale, impact, management response and trend. Some factors in different countries must be evaluated individually.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, and it is not needed

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

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

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

The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

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

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

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

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

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

In the Russian Federation the National Park area covers the land surface of the Property. The National Park "Kurshskaja Kosa" (Curonian Spit) administration has started the process of creating a protection zone in the area of the Baltic Sea which will act as a buffer zone of the National Park. In Lithuania the Property area fully matches the area of the "Kuršių Nerija" (Curonian Spit) National Park

4.2. Protective Measures

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

The entire Curonian Spit is protected in the form of two National Parks. The Lithuanian part is the National Park "Kuršių Nerija," created by Decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania No I-1224 of 23 April 1991. The Russian part is the National Park "Kurshskaya Kosa," created by Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR No 423 of 6 November 1987, as amended in 1995. The protective measures in the management plan for the Lithuanian Park make special provision for protection and conservation of the cultural heritage and cultural landscape. That for the Russian Park invokes the Federal Law "On specially protected natural territories," which forbids any activity which is potentially harmful for, inter alia, historical and cultural sites.

Comment

The "Kuršių Nerija" National Park was founded by Decision No I-1224 of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 April 1991. The Russian part is protected by the "Kurshskaja Kosa" National Park founded by Resolution No 423 of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR of 6 November 1987, as amended in 1995. Safeguarding the protection of the cultural landscapes is embedded in the status of both National Parks.

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?

An adequate legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are **some deficiencies in implementation**

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 property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

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?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

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

In Lithuania any activity posing a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Curonian Spit is prohibited by the Law on Protected Areas (2001), and Protection Regulation of the

Curonian Spit National Park (2002). In the Russian Federation the relevant laws are the Federal Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories of the Russian Federation (1995) and on Federal State Enterprise (FSBA) (2012), the Regulation on the "Kurshskaja Kosa" National Park.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Both National Parks are state property. The Lithuanian Parks managed by its own administration, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Forest and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment. There is a territorial management plan for the Curonian Spit covering the period to 2005, approved in 1994 by the Lithuanian Government. This forms the basis for a series of detailed plans relating to forestry management, recreational development, settlement improvement, and infrastructure development. The specific management plan for the "Kuršių Nerija" National Park includes provisions for the protection, rational use, and restoration of the cultural heritage and landscape and for ensuring the continuity of architectural traditions in developing settlements. Management of the Russian Park takes place at two levels. Overall responsibility is with the Federal Forestry Service, which works through the Forest Administration of the Kaliningrad Region. The General Development Plan of the "Kurshskaya Kosa" National Park of 1989 sets out measures for conservation, control, and use of the Park, as well as scientific research projects. The information in the nomination dossier does not indicate whether it makes specific reference to the cultural aspects of the Park. Both Parks have clearly defined zones. The zoning categories are:

- Strict Nature Reserves;
- Limited access zones;
- Recreation zones;
- Settlements;
- Agricultural zones.

They are also surrounded by buffer zones (in the Baltic and the Curonian Lagoon) that vary in width from 500m to 2km.

Comment

Currently the Management system of the WH property is based on national legal and spatial territory planning documents of both States. The Integrated management system, covering the entire property will be determined in the Integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. It is under preparation and will be implemented once it has been finalised and agreed upon.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Lithuania: Special Management Plan of the Curonian Spit (2012), National Park Borders Plan (2010), Klaipėda City Municipality General Plan (2007), General Plan of Neringa Municipality (2012), Forest Management Plan (2013). The Russian Federation: Medium Term Development Plan of the "Kurshskaja Kosa" National Park for 2014–2018, General Plan for Rural Settlement in the "Curonian Spit" (2013), Forest Management Plan (2012). International agreements between the National Parks and Municipalities.

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	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Fair
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
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?

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?

Indigenous peoples have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role

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

An integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan is essential to ensure the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value, to improve cooperation of all institutions in both States, and to agree on future activities. The plan must encompass solutions

related to human resources management, expertise and trainings.

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

None significant changes.

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)	14%
Governmental (National / Federal)	58%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	0%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	2%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	25%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	1%

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

Comment

International Seminar on the Preparation of a Nomination of the Curonian Spit (1998); Elimination of the hurricane consequences in the territory of the Curonian Spit National Park (2000); The main restoration works of monumental building (immovable cultural heritage) and its employment for visitors centre of the Curonian Spit National Park (2002); Developing Preconditions for Sustainable Curonian Spit Managing (2011); Preservation of the Curonian Spit Cultural (Architectural) Heritage (2011).

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 a **major flow** of economic benefits to local communities from activities in and around the World Heritage property

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

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

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

The information above reflects financial and human resources possessed by the National Parks administrations who execute functions and have a key role regarding the conservation of the property, forest and coastal management. The financial and human resources of municipalities and other institutions are not included due to the lack of comprehensive and detailed information.

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

Full-time	95%
Part-time	5%

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

Permanent	85%
Seasonal	15%

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

Paid	95%
Volunteer	5%

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

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

Research and monitoring	Low
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Low
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	Low
Administration	Not available
Risk preparedness	Medium

Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Not available

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

No capacity development plan or programme is in place; management is implemented by external staff and skills are not transferred

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

There is lack of human resources in the Curonian Spit and brain-drain to other organizations or cities because of financial and other material resources shortage (LT). The trainings for the staff of the National Parks" administrations are very important as a strong motivation. There is a crucial importance to organize common trainings both for the staff of the National Parks" authorities and local municipalities in both States.

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 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

www.park-kosa.ru (site of the "Kurshskaja Kosa" National Park, RF) and annual collection of articles from scientific researches on the Curonian Spit (printout). www.nerija.lt (site of the "Kuršių Nerija" National Park, LT). There were complex archaeological, geological, biological researches implemented in the area, number of papers were printed by scientific institutions in 2009-2013.

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

The scientific research covering specific issues related to the OUV of the property, specific socioeconomic factors affecting the Curonian Spit is not sufficient. There is a gap in common research and data exchange. Close co-operation between Scientific Boards from both National Parks" administrations is needed to prepare the programme of the property research intended for management need.

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	Poor
Local Indigenous peoples	Average
Local landowners	Average
Visitors	Average
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 **limited and ad hoc** education and awareness programme

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
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Not needed
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Not needed

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

The main strategy for education, information and awareness building in the WH property will be defined in the Integrated Management Plan, which is under preparation. The need for education and awareness building programmes is evident in both States.

4.7. Visitor Management

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

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

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

Entry tickets and registries
Transportation services
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

The management of visitors is regulated in the main spatial planning documents: the Special Management Plan of the Curonian Spit National Park (LT, 2012), the Development Plan of the "Kurshskaja Kosa" National Park for 2014–2018 (RF). Specific regulations, namely "On the Procedure of Travel to the Territory of "Kurshskaja Kosa" NP, "On Travel Companies on the Territory of "Kurshskaja Kosa" NP, "On the Visitors Centre Museum Complex (RF). The common Tourism Management Plan is under preparation.

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

The tourism development strategy for the Curonian Spit will be part of the Common Tourism Management Plan which is under preparation. It will be oriented towards protection of cultural landscape, needs of local community and sustainable economic development.

4.8. Monitoring

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

improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

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

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

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

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

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Non-existent
Local communities	Non-existent
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Non-existent
Industry	Not applicable
Local indigenous peoples	Non-existent

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

Implementation is **complete**

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

Joint Russian and Lithuanian Action Plan for Cooperation in Case of Pollution Accidents in the Baltic Sea is prepared. Environmental monitoring has been continuing in both countries.

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

There is a need for common databases on specific areas of research and facilities in the National Parks and more close co-operation among scientists from both countries. The Scientific Boards that exist in Russian and Lithuanian National Parks form the basis for future common monitoring actions and other scientific activities.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 management 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
3.3	Services Infrastructures					
3.3.4	Localised utilities	The panoramas and the silhouette from the Curonian Lagoon.	To follow guidelines of the Special Management Plan of the Curonian Spit National Park relating to the limitation of new towers and high buildings (LT). To develop the recommendations according to the limitation of new towers and high buildings (RF)	The monitoring is implemented through the planning procedure (LT) and landscape monitoring (LT, RF).	The Special Management Plan of the Curonian Spit National Park is valid for 10 years (LT). The recommendation for the "Kurshskaja Kosa" National Park should be developed until 2016.	The National Parks" administrations (LT, RF), Neringa and Klaipėda municipalities (LT). This problem is identified in LT part of the WH property but RF identified need to develop recommendations to address this problem too.
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage	The social-cultural traditions, spirituality and the social perception of the area.	To prepare education and information strategy and programs oriented to local community and other stakeholders. To organize permanent information seminars and trainings with the involvement of local inhabitants, tourism industry and other stakeholders	An education and information strategy will be defined in the Integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. Monitoring of actions is performed through the annual reports of the National Parks" administrations and municipalities.	An education and information strategy will be prepared until 2016. It will cover preparation of medium term plans for 5 years with annual seminars, trainings and etc.	All institutions involved into preparation of the Integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. The National Parks" administrations in both States together with local municipalities will be responsible for implementation. The strategy will anticipate better involvement of local communities and other stakeholders into different activities and draw guidelines for staff training involved in the WH property management and maintenance.
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system	The social-cultural traditions, spirituality and the social perception of the area.	To prepare education and information strategy and programs oriented to local community and other stakeholders. To organize permanent information seminars and trainings with involvement of local inhabitants, tourism industry and other stakeholders.	An education and information strategy will be defined in the Integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. Monitoring of actions is performed through the annual reports of the National Parks" administrations and municipalities.	An education and information strategy will be prepared until 2016. It will cover preparation of medium term plans for 5 years with annual seminars, trainings and etc.	All institutions involved into preparation of the Integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. The National Parks" administrations in both States together with local municipalities will be responsible for implementation. The most important part of actions is permanent information seminars and trainings which represent the OUV of the WH property and give knowledge about social-cultural traditions interception, as well as development of visitors and handicraft centre.
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	The social-cultural traditions, spirituality and the social perception of the area.	To prepare education and information strategy and programs oriented to local community and other stakeholders. To organize permanent information seminars and trainings with involvement of local inhabitants, tourism industry and other stakeholders.	An education and information strategy will be defined in the Integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. Monitoring of actions is performed through the annual reports of the National Parks" administrations and municipalities.	An education and information strategy will be prepared until 2016. It will cover preparation of medium term plans for 5 years with annual seminars, trainings and etc.	All institutions involved into preparation of the Integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. The National Parks" administrations in both States together with local municipalities will be responsible for implementation. The involvement of new community members as well as young people into common actions and formation of common tasks has crucial importance.
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.6	Temperature change	A man-made protective coastal dune ridge; relicts of moraine islands, seacoast and littoral forests and littoral capes.	To implement actions provided in the Coastal Zone Management Program for 2014-2020 (adopted by the Ministry of Environment in 2014) (LT) and in the Medium Term Development Plan of the "Kurshskaja Kosa" National Park for 2014-2018 (RF).	Permanent monitoring performed by the National Parks" administrations in both States.	2014-2020 (LT) and 2014-2018 (RF).	The National Parks" administrations in both States. This factor is mainly related to strong storms which mostly damage the man-made protective coastal dune and Lagoon coasts.
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	Ancient forests, mountain pine forests and other unique sand flora and fauna.	To prepare Invasive/alien terrestrial species regulation program for the Curonian Spit 2016-2021 according to the legislation in both States.	Permanent monitoring during implementation of the program and 5 years after.	Invasive/alien terrestrial species regulation program to be prepared in 2015-2016, implementation in 2016-2021.	The National Parks" administrations in both States.	Preparation of the program based on the results of the annual monitoring. Successful implementation of program depends on international legal regulations, financial programs and other resources.

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.4 Financial and Human Resources							
			Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
4.4.15	No capacity development plan or programme is in place		To identify needs for capacity development of the staff at national parks administrations and municipalities considering the management need of the WH property. To prepare long term plan for capacity development.	The need for capacity development and the main strategy for it will be identified in integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan in 2014-2015. The plan for capacity development is scheduled for 2016-2021.	All institutions involved in preparation of integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan, scientific boards of both national parks.	The implementation of capacity development plan will depend on financial resources in both States.	
4.6 Education, Information and Awareness Building							
4.6.3	There is a limited education and awareness programme		To prepare education and information strategy and programs oriented to local community and other stakeholders. To organize permanent information seminars and trainings with involvement of local inhabitants, tourism industry and other stakeholders.	An education and information strategy will be prepared until 2016. It will be involve preparation of medium term plans for 5 years with annual seminars, trainings and etc.	All institutions involved into preparation of an integrated Curonian Spit Management Plan. The national parks administrations in both States together with local municipalities will be responsible for implementation.	The implementation of this program will depend on financial resources in both States.	

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 **impacted** by factors described in this report, but this situation is being **addressed through effective management actions**.

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 additional 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	Positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Very positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

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

No additional comments.

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
Staff from other World Heritage properties

Indigenous peoples
Local community
External experts
Advisory bodies

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

no

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

1. To detach the assessment inside and outside property. 2. Complicated to identify Spatial scale of social/cultural uses of heritage. 3. When the property is trans-boundary the separate evaluation of some factors in each country individually would give more clear picture of present situation and help to identify challenges for the site management more clearly.

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

UNESCO	Good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Good

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

Most of the required information was accessible

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

The World Heritage Convention
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	Not Applicable
State Party	Not Applicable
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

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: The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Curonian Spit is adopted in 2014 (Decision: 38 COM 8E).

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

No additional comments.