

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

• Slovakia

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

1273

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2008

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Hervartov	49.247 / 21.204	0.08	5.35	5.43	
TvrDOSin	49.336 / 19.558	0.75	1.7	2.45	
Kezmarok	49.143 / 20.431	0.52	74.17	74.69	
Lestiny	49.19 / 19.36	0.31	1.77	2.08	
Hronsek (church)	48.649 / 19.155	0.18	1.82	2	
Hronsek (belfry)	48.649 / 19.155	0.01	1.82	1.83	
Bodruzal	49.353 / 21.708	0.35	2.27	2.62	
Ladomirová	49.328 / 21.626	0.06	1.58	1.64	
Ruská Bystrá	48.857 / 22.296	0.27	1.71	1.98	
Total (ha)		2.53	92.19	94.72	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Wooden Churches, Maps of the inscribed properties and buffer zones	26/09/2006	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic Cesta na Červený most 6 814 06 Bratislava Slovakia

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

• Miloš Dudáš
Regional Monuments Board Žilina
Civic Engineer / Conservator

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

Comment

<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/drevene-chramy-v-slovenskej-casti-karpatskeho-obluka>

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

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, illustrate the coexistence of different religious faiths within a small territory of central Europe. The series of eight properties includes Roman Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox churches that were built between the 16th and 18th centuries, most of them in quite isolated villages, using wood as the main material and traditional construction techniques. Within the framework of their common features, the churches exhibit some typological variations, in accordance with the correspondent faith, expressed in their plans, interior spaces and external appearance. The churches also bear testimony to the development of major architectural and artistic trends during the period of construction and its interpretation and adaptation to a specific geographical and cultural context. Interiors are decorated with wall and ceiling paintings and works of art that enrich the cultural significance of the properties.

Criterion (iii): The wooden churches offer an outstanding testimony to the traditional religious architecture of the north-western Carpathians region and to the inter-ethnic and inter-cultural character of a relatively small territory where Latin and Byzantine cultures have met and overlapped. The Lutheran churches serve as an exceptional example of religious tolerance in Upper Hungary during the period of bloody anti-Habsburgs rebellions and uprisings over the 17th century.

Criterion (iv): The wooden churches represent one of the best examples of European wooden religious architecture from the late Middle Ages to the end of 18th century. Their characteristic appearance, construction and at times rather naïve decoration derive from earlier local traditions, partially influenced by professional architectural concepts of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Western (Latin) and eastern (Orthodox) building concepts are reflected in these wooden structures, creating specific religious architecture with diversified design, technical solutions and unique decorative expressions.

The buildings themselves, in their current settings, present a state of completeness that ensures the condition of integrity. In the framework of the particular characteristics of their construction materials and techniques, the buildings are well preserved and the authenticity of design and form, materials and techniques, uses and functions is ensured. Legal protection is satisfactory since the properties enjoy maximum national and local levels of protection. The management structure and instruments are adequate, and the creation of a Management Group ensures the participation of all stakeholders.

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

(iii)(iv)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

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)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact						Origin	
3.1	Buildings and Development								
3.1.1	Housing								
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities								
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure								
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure								
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure								
3.3	Services Infrastructures								
3.3.2	Renewable energy facilities								
3.4	Pollution								
3.4.4	Air pollution								
3.5	Biological resource use/modification								
3.5.10	Forestry /wood production								
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric								
3.7.1	Wind								
3.7.5	Dust								
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)								
3.7.7	Pests								
3.7.8	Micro-organisms								
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage								
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses								
3.8.2	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								
3.9	Other human activities								
3.9.1	Illegal activities								
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage								
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events								
3.10.1	Storms								
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events								
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)								
3.13	Management and institutional factors								
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities								
3.13.3	Management activities								
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside			

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend	
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.1	Wind	widespread	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	static
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	widespread	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	static
3.7.7	Pests	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					

		Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community					
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	widespread	intermittent or sporadic	catastrophic	low capacity	static

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

3.17.1 - Comments

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 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

There is a general lack of awareness about buffer zones of wooden churches among local population. Buffer zones maps and information on regulations of activities inside BFs will have to be published on official websites of the affected municipalities or on their official boards.

4.2. Protective Measures

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

The eight properties enjoy national protection; they have all been registered as National Cultural Monuments on the Central Register of Monuments Fund of the Slovak Republic. Some of the movable goods contained in the buildings are recorded on the National Cultural Monuments Register. Proposed buffer zones

enjoy legal protection, at national or local level according to the specific case. The nominated properties are protected by Law 49/2002 of the National Council of the Slovak Republic for the Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites. Apart from this Law, the protection of monuments and surroundings is assured by urban planning tools for the long-term development of the communities and territories. These tools determine the obligatory *modus operandi* of the territory in question. In the case of national cultural monuments, Act 237/2000, by which Act 50/1976 on Urban Planning and Building Order has been changed and amended, fully respects the need to protect them. This Act is administered directly by the Building Authorities in the individual cities and towns. As to the appearance of trees or greenery on the premises of the churches, on protected parts of the countryside or territory, the legal instrument is Act 543/2002 on Conservation of Nature and Landscape and the competent body is the Landscape Protected Area Administration.

Comment

Institutionalized protection is ensured by specialized state administration: Monuments Board of the SR and Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice Regional Monuments Boards, and is regulated by Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the Preservation of Monuments and Historic Sites pursuant to which all wooden churches are protected as national cultural monuments. Protection is ensured by the owners of churches in cooperation with local government and building offices.

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 **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

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

Set of measures to protect the WHS and its surroundings is sufficient, its enforcement could be improved through greater cooperation between institutions and local community, as well as an increase in the provision of direct economic and financial incentives.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The main governmental bodies related to management of the nominated properties are the Ministry of Culture, the Monuments Inspection, the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and Regional Monuments Boards in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Košice, Nitra, Presov, Trenčín, Trnava and Zilina. The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is the central body of state administration in the field of monuments preservation. The Ministry elaborates the basic philosophy on protection and determines the principal direction and strategies. The government of the Slovak Republic submits proposals and recommendations on issues of protection, restoration, utilization and presentation of monuments fund. The Ministry directs activities of the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and manages and inspects performance of the state administration in the entire sector of preservation of the monuments fund. Furthermore, it is the central state surveillance body in the field of monuments protection and considers resolutions issued by the Monuments Board in the course of the administrative procedure. The Ministry of Culture also cooperates with the Ministry of Finance (financing activities), the Ministry of Economy (tourism), the Ministry of Environment (urban planning and construction regulations), the Ministry of Building and Regional Development and the Ministry of Education. The Monuments Inspection of the Ministry of Culture performs surveillance activities, monitors how owners of the cultural monuments observe laws and how they perform duties, performs supervision of national cultural monuments as well as observance of conditions for their protection and verifies whether imposed measures have been accomplished. It cooperates with the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, the Regional Monuments Board, municipalities and other inspection bodies. Authorities and legal entities are obliged to provide Monument Inspection with required information and necessary collaboration.

The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic is a budgetary state organisation with its finances linked to the budget of the Ministry of Culture. The Board manages and inspects performance of the state administration in the field of

preservation of monuments carried out through Regional Monuments Boards, coordinates special and research projects and elaborates theory and methodology of monuments preservation, assesses the state of monuments and condition of their preservation, ensures development of theory and methodology of restoration, builds places of work for study, development and technological analysis and laboratories, provides for research and restoration works as state assistance for endangered cultural monuments, executes and coordinates documentary, training, educational, editorial and promotional activity, provides Regional Monuments Boards with professional and technical assistance, cooperates with civil associations and foundations established to preserve the use and presentation of the monuments fund, shares international projects on preservation and restoration of cultural monuments and monument territories and cooperates with international organisations and partner institutions abroad.

Regional Monuments Boards exercise state administration in their territorial district and constitute the first-stage body in the field of preservation of the monuments fund. The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and Regional Monuments Boards exercise state supervision of observance of the provisions of the Monuments Act and binding legal regulations issued to enforce its provisions, carry out surveillance of adherence to lawful decisions and, to the extent of their competence, make decisions to relieve shortages. Regional Monuments Boards are the bodies in charge of monitoring the condition and use of monuments and supervising in the field of protection, elaborating background papers associated with preparation of land use, planning documentation for appropriate state administrative authorities, cooperating with them in the preparation of projects and restoration documentation, directing the activities of legal entities and private persons in the course of preservation, restoration and utilization of the monuments, providing experts and technical assistance, providing municipalities with professional assistance during registration of local monuments, and monitoring monuments law-abidance.

Comment

The inter-ministerial "Commission for the coordination of the World Cultural Heritage Sites protection", which was reestablished in 2012 by the Ministry of Culture, is responsible for conceptual, organization and legal management measures at the national level and consists of the representatives of the ministries of culture, environment, finance, education, foreign affairs, economy, construction and regional development, WHS managers, ICOMOS Slovakia and others.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Management plan is a part of the nomination documentation. After inscription on the WH List it was supplemented according to the recommendations of the WH Committee by the sections Joint Management, Tourism Plan, Fire Protection Plan. In: Management Plan for the Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area (December 2011) – available at the official website of the Monuments Board of the SR
http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/unesco/Manazment_Plan_vystup_final.pdf

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local /

municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

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

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

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

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

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

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

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

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

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

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 **directly contribute** to some decisions relating to 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

Comment on management system: Joint management at the site level works steadily and effectively through the Management Group created before inscription. The local

management of certain churches is impaired due to the isolation of the municipalities where these churches are situated and other problems such as low population and its high age.

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

Pursuant to decision No. 32 COM 8.B 37 of the World Heritage Committee, the joint integrated management plan for all eight churches – parts of the site was designed in December 2011 which is oriented on addressing the prevention of the threats, regulating tourist activities and ensuring fire protection for the site.

http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/unesco/Manazment_Plan_vystup_final.pdf

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)	
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Governmental (National / Federal)	70%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	5%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	5%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	5%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	10%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	5%
Other grants	

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

Comment

No aid from the World Heritage Fund was provided to this site

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

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

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

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

In the Slovak Republic multi-resource funding is a common method of financing the conservation and maintenance of monuments through the owner who, under the condition of co-participation, may acquire aid from the state subsidy programs or foreign financial mechanisms. Funding for site protection and management is provided from the budgets of local governments and state administration institutions.

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

Full-time	
Part-time	100%

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

Permanent	100%
Seasonal	

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	Fair
Visitor management	Poor
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Poor
Tourism	Fair
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	High
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	Medium

Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Medium

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

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **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

Monuments Board has also experts in the field of restoration and chemical-technological research. It provides professional assistance for owners of the churches through the nationwide project "Pro Monumenta – Prevention by Maintenance" aimed at ensuring the maintenance of monuments (training, diagnostics, practical examples). There is a lack of human resources in smaller municipalities due to the low number and high age of the population.

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

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

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

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

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

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

DUDÁŠ, M. - GOJDIČ, I. - ŠUKAJLOVÁ, M. Kultúrne krásy Slovenska - Drevené kostoly. Bratislava: DAJAMA, 2007
 DUDÁŠ, M. - JIROUŠEK, A. Drevené kostoly, chrámy a zvonice na Slovensku. Košice: JES, 2010
 DUDÁŠ, M. Drevené artikulárne a tolerančné chrámy na Slovensku. Liptovský Mikuláš : TRANOSCIUS, 2011
 PAVLOVSKÝ, F. Drevené gréckokatolícke chrámy na východnom Slovensku. Prešov : PETRA, 2007

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

Chemical-technological department of the Monuments Board carries out regular monitoring and research of wooden

material of the churches. In 2013, the Fire Protection Corps and Monuments Board started the implementation of the 1st phase of research– audit of the status of fire protection aiming at institutionalizing the issues of fire protection of cultural monuments and WHS in particular.

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

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

In order to raise the awareness of the general public regarding the values of the site, the preparation of unified information

and promotion materials for the entire WHS is one of the priorities of the Management Group.

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	Static
Three years ago	Minor Increase
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

A supplement of the management plan prepared with respect to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee (see chapter 4.3.12.) analyzes the conditions for WHS use by visitors and in Chapter VI.1.f. sets the measures guiding the visit rate with respect to preservation of the outstanding universal value of this site.

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

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

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

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

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

Churches are particularly used for liturgical purposes; their use for tourist purposes is subordinated to this priority. During the time when no liturgy is taking place the churches are open at definite hours or upon agreement with the administrator/guide. Compulsory admission fee is only charged at two churches (Tvrdošín and Kežmarok); the other churches have optional (voluntary) admission fees.

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

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

Implementation is **underway**

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

Recommendations indicated in decision No. 32 COM 8B.37 of the World Heritage Commission were implemented directly after inscription. The long-term task continuously addressed by the WHS Management group is improving the fire protection of individual churches, since comprehensive fire protection is a long-term and financially demanding process.

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

Since 1996 the Monuments Board has systematically monitored all cultural WHS in 2-year cycles: year 1 - evaluation of the construction and technical state of all monuments in WHS; year 2 – preservation of OUV attributes. Annual monitoring of the state of the wooden material of the churches is added in this case. Monitoring forms the basis for the provision of state subsidies for conservation.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

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

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.1	Wind	iii, iv	regular checking by owners and monuments boards + ensuring preventative care of grown trees in direct vicinity of churches	annual chemical and technological monitoring of the state of the wooden material of churches + monitoring of the preservation of their construction-technical state every other year	checking by owner - continuously monitoring – annually, at least once a year	Monuments Board of the SR, territorially competent regional monuments boards (Prešov, Žilina, Košice and Banská Bystrica) + owner/administrator in cooperation with local government	Wind storms represent a risk of direct damage of wooden churches (roof covering and construction) or indirect threat by damaging the surrounding grown trees
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	iii, iv	safeguarding of all structures against soil moisture and rain water + building flood embankments in case of churches situated in the vicinity of watercourses (Hervartov, Hronsek, Ladomirová)	annual chemical and technological monitoring of the state of the wooden material of churches + monitoring of the preservation of their construction-technical state every other year; checking by owner	monitoring - annually, at least once a year checking by owner - continuously building of embankments – Hervartov completed in 2012, Hronsek+Ladomirová in preparatory phase with planned completion by 2020	Monuments Board of the SR, territorially competent regional monuments boards (Prešov, Žilina, Košice and Banská Bystrica) + owner/administrator + local and regional government	No comment
3.7.7	Pests	iii, iv	chemical protection of wood, roof covering in particular, was carried out in the past course of conservation	annual chemical and technological monitoring of the state of the wooden material of churches + monitoring of the preservation of their construction-technical state every other year; checking by owner	monitoring - annually, at least once a year checking by owner - continuously application of chemical protection – if necessary based on the findings of the monitoring and recommendations of the conservator	Monuments Board of the SR, territorially competent regional monuments boards (Prešov, Žilina, Košice and Banská Bystrica) + owner/administrator	incidence of pests /wood-borers/ in the constructions is stabilized in the amount natural for the site's geographical locations; chemical-technological monitoring is carried out in the spring/fall taking into account the life cycle of wood-borers
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	iii, iv	Fire Protection Corps in cooperation with the Monuments Board audited the fire safety of all churches + local fire depts. conduct planned intervention training in churches + instalation of fire alarms and lightning rods	control and expert inspection of fire protection from by Fire Protection and Rescue Corps of the SR, checking by owner	control and expert inspection of fire protection - annually checking by owner - continuously	Fire Protection and Rescue Corps of the SR + owner/administrator + Commission for the coordination of the World Cultural Heritage Sites protection	In compliance with the recommendations of the WH Committee, the Management group of this site is currently working on the possibilities of improving the fire protection of churches – providing an automatic system of fire alarms for all churches.

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

Overall preservation of the site in comparison with the status at inscription has been improved especially from the aspect of the presentation and construction-technological state including the conservation of mobiliary. It is necessary to ensure the highest level of fire protection. Assistance from the international community at least as an advisor would be welcomed.

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	No impact
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	No impact
Funding for the property	Very positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Very 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

The status of the world heritage helped to enhance the awareness of the population about the values of this site. However the sacral function of these churches must always be

placed before the development of tourism; this phenomenon must also be emphasized in building the awareness of the general public because these fragile and vulnerable churches could be endangered.

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
Local community

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

- to provide more space for commentaries; it is difficult to cover more complex issues (e.g., management system) or reflect the diversity of serial sites in 500 characters or less. - Chapter 3 -in the interest of greater accuracy to enable the separate evaluation of positive and negative impact of factors in the territory

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

UNESCO	Good
State Party Representative	Good
Advisory Body	Poor

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

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	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Satisfactory
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

We expect that the World Heritage Committee will react to critical deficiencies indicated in this Periodic Report. Special attention must be focused on raising awareness regarding WHS values on the national and international levels and to use all available media for that.