

## 1. World Heritage Property Data

### 1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Škocjan Caves

### 1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

#### State(s) Party(ies)

- Slovenia

#### Type of Property

natural

#### Identification Number

390

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

1986


### 1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Škocjan Caves	45.667 / 14	413	0	413	1986
<b>Total (ha)</b>		<b>413</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>413</b>	

#### Comment

The buffer zone of the property covers 45002,53 ha. The new methodology shows that the exact area of the property is 401,05 ha.

### 1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Area proposed by Slovenia in 1985 to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, scale 1:5,000. Zone of the Regional Park Škocjan Caves, scale 1:80,000. Škocjan Caves, scale 1:1,500,000.	26/10/2006	

### 1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Spela Spanzel  
Ministère de la culture de la Republique de Slovenie  
Conseillère, Direktorat pour le patrimoine culturel  
Direktorat pour le patrimoine culturel

#### Comment

Correct information: Suzana Zupanc-Hrastar, MSC  
Undersecretary Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment  
Environment Directorate Conservation of Nature Division  
Dunajska 22 1000 Ljubljana Slovenia Telephone:+3861 478 74 80 Email:Suzana.Zupanc-Hrastar@gov.si Amendment  
Špela Spanzel (in English): Ministry of Culture Cultural Heritage Directorate Director-General

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

- Gordana Beltram  
Javni Zavod Park Škocjanske Jame  
Director

#### Comment

Javni Zavod Park Škocjanske Jame Stojan Ščuka Acting  
Director Škocjan 2 6215 Divača Slovenia Telephone: +386 (0)5 70 82 100 Fax: +386 (0)5 70 82 105 Email:  
stojan.scuka@psj.gov.si, psj@psj.gov.si

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

1. [Park Skocjanske Jame se Predstavlja](http://www.park-skocjanske-jame.si)
2. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

#### Comment

1. Park Skocjanske jame: <http://www.park-skocjanske-jame.si/>  
Delete the second link listed above.

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

#### Comment

List of Wetlands of International Importance Man and Biosphere Reserve Natura 2000

## 2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

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

#### Comment

Škocjan Caves are a combined system of 6 kms of underground passages. The Reka River disappears in the karst underground passing through an impressive and picturesque channel, one of the largest known underground canyons. The cave is also characterised by distinguished variations of limestone bedrock and speleothem formations. Additionally, rich biodiversity, the history of cave exploration, rich archaeology finds and cultural heritage contribute to the OUV of the property.

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

(vii)(viii)

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

Criterion (vii) The Škocjan cave system and its surroundings are eminent and well-conserved manifestations of Karst topography. A broad range of the karst features is exceptional in scale and aesthetic quality. Outstanding landscape highlights include the vast, roughly two-kilometre long underground canyon, up to some 150 metres high and in places more than 120 metres wide. An underground torrent runs through it along series of cascades, a major visual and auditory spectacle. Higher up in the otherwise drier ceilings and walls of the canyon, limestone deposition from dripping water has been shaping astonishing stalagmites and stalactites, such as the so-called Giants in Velika Dvorana (or "Great Chamber"). The magnificent rimstone pools in Dvorana Ponvic (or "Chamber of Rimstone Pools" are equally impressive manifestations of calcite deposits). The famous pools have been attracting scientists and artists ever since their formal discovery in 1888, and their representations came to epitomize the otherworldly beauty of the Škocjan Caves. The main channel of the celebrated underground river resurfaces in two picturesque collapse dolines named Velika and Mala. The breathtaking view of these two collapse dolines is depicted in the drawings of pioneering explorer Valvasor dating back as early as 1689 and has never ceased to fascinate visitors, artists and scientists since. Criterion (viii) The Škocjan Caves and their surroundings are the type locality for karst topography and fundamental terms have their origin here, including "karst" and "doline". This is a strong indication not only of the property's importance for science but specifically in the history of earth sciences. An impressive array of exceptional karst manifestations, the result of past and present geological, geomorphological, speleological and

hydrological processes, are clearly at display for scientists and visitors alike within a relatively small area. The heart of the site, the main cave system with the underground stretches of the Reka River, has been formed in a thick layer of cretaceous limestone. The constantly dynamic system is an outstanding textbook example of contact Karst with well-developed features, such as a blind valley, collapse dolines, openings, chasms and of course caves. Remarkably, the geological diversity supports an equally fascinating biological diversity which has important land and water management implications.

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

This information was not available at the World Heritage Centre before.

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

OUV is additionally supported by a) rich biodiversity that is a result of specific conditions in the collapse dolines and the underground environment. b) the area contributed to fundamental research of the karst and karst phenomena since the 19th century, as well as to terminology. c) several archaeological sites within the area have been researched. Those include cave sites, fortified settlements and burial grounds, dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze and Middle Ages. The villages feature typical architectural heritage, namely the so-called stone karst houses and dry walls.

**3. Factors Affecting the Property**

**3.14. Other factor(s)**

**3.14.1 - Other factor(s)**

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3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact						Origin	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>								
3.1.3	Industrial areas								
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities								
<b>3.2</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>								
3.3.2	Renewable energy facilities								
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>								
3.4.2	Ground water pollution								
3.4.3	Surface water pollution								
3.4.5	Solid waste								
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>								
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses								
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage								
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation								
<b>3.13</b>	<b>Management and institutional factors</b>								
3.13.1	Low 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>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>				
3.2.1	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.2.4	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	increasing
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>				
3.4.2	restricted	one off or rare	minor	high capacity	static
3.4.3	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.4.5	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>				
3.8.6	localised	on-going	minor	high capacity	static

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

#### 3.17.1 - Comments

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## 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

The WH Property border coincides with the MAB border. Local residents in the buffer zone identify the MAB zone rather than WH Property buffer zone.

## 4.2. Protective Measures

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

- Acts: The Nature Conservation Act; The Cultural Heritage Protection Act; The Act Providing Funds for Certain Urgent Programmes of the Republic of Slovenia in Culture; The Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act
- Laws: The Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act, Decision on the Establishment of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency
- Other: Ordinance amending the ordinance on spatial components of the long-term and medium-term social plan of the Republic of Slovenia; Ordinance amending the ordinance

on spatial components of the long-term and social plan of the Sežana Municipality for the area of the Divača Municipality; Natura 2000

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

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

Submitted on Wednesday, December 21, 2005

#### • Question 6.02

The Škocjan Caves Park, Slovenia, was established by a special Act:

The Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 57/1996) defines the boundaries of the protected area and the area of influence, identifies natural and cultural monuments, defines protection arrangements in the protected area and area of influence, defines the form and procedure of protection and development, organization and operation of the Public Service Agency, supervision, penal provisions (Annex 13).

Decision on the Establishment of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 68/1996) lays down the organization of the Agency, its operations and the implementation of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act (Annex 14).

Additional acts and regulations taken into account in the preparation of operational and professional guidelines and the programme of protection and development of the Škocjan Caves Park:

The Nature Conservation Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 56/1999, Articles 59, 60 and 61) which stipulates that the management of the protected area is implemented on the basis of a management plan and specifies its contents.

The Cultural Heritage Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 7/99), Chapter XI, Transitional and final provisions, paragraph 2 of Article 79 stipulates that: The cultural monuments proclaimed by the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 57/96) shall be deemed to be cultural monuments in accordance with this Act.

The Act Providing Funds for Certain Urgent Programmes of the Republic of Slovenia in Culture (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 24/1998, no. 108/2002) provides the financial resources for the restoration of a technical monument in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park for the 2004 – 2008 period.

The Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 60/99), which defines the preparation of a regional development programme (hereinafter referred to as the "RDP"), the PPD (programme for protection and development) of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park shall be duly included in the contents of the RDP for the South Primorska region. This programme is being prepared in cooperation with coastal and Karst municipalities and the Ilirska Bistrica Municipality.

In the Ordinance amending the ordinance on spatial components of the long-term and medium-term social plan of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 11/99), the Škocjan Caves Park is defined as a regional park (map sheets 4a and 4b in the scale of 1 : 250 000) in the natural and cultural heritage protection scheme.

In the Ordinance amending the ordinance on spatial components of the long-term and social plan of the Sežana Municipality for the area of the Divača Municipality (for the period from 1986 to 2000, supplemented in 2001), the Škocjan Caves Park is defined as a regional park in the natural and cultural heritage protection scheme.

Natura 2000 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 49/04, no. 110/04). The following special closed areas lie within the Škocjan Caves Regional Park: SPA SI 5000023 Kras, pSCI 3000276 Kras and a small part of the area pSCI 3000223 Reka.

The Programme for protection and development of the Škocjan Caves Park for the 2005 – 2009 period (the Škocjan Caves Park, 2005) is in the final stages of preparation and approval.

**Comment**

Acts: The Nature Conservation Act (2004); The Cultural Heritage Protection Act (2008); Cave Conservation Act (2004), Environmental Protection Act (2006) Laws: The Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act (1996), Decision on the Establishment of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency (1996) Other: Natura 2000 (2004), Ecologically Important Areas (2004) All the acts have been amended. The Program for Protection and Development of the Škocjan Caves Park for the period 2007-2013 is adopted.

**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?**

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**

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**4.3. Management System / Management Plan**

**4.3.1 - Management System**

• Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy; Council of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, Slovenia; Expert Council of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, Slovenia

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

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

Submitted on Wednesday, December 21, 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:** 1996

**Function:** The Public Service Agency of the Škocjan Caves Park, established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia under the Act adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia; simultaneously adopted was the Decision on the Establishment of the Public Service Agency of the Škocjan Caves Park (222nd session of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, November 1996) (Annex 13, Annex 14). The mandate of the The Public Service Agency is to perform the following activities within the framework of public service

**Mandate:** see the box above, index 05.03

**Constituted:** legal

• **Question 5.05**

Overall management system of the site

- Management by the State Party
- Management under protective legislation

**Comment**

Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia of Agriculture and the Environment; Council of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, Slovenia; Expert Council of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, Slovenia.

**4.3.2 - Management Documents**

**Comment**

Program for protection and development of the Škocjan Caves Park for the period 2013-2017 will be sent to WHC as soon as available in English.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An annual work / action plan exists and **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	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Good
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 **participate** in all relevant decisions relating to management, i.e. co-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**

/

**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**

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**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%
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International donations (NGO´s, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	28%
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.)	48%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	24%

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

**Comment**

The property did not receive any WH Fund.

**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**

Property Manager applied and received EU funds (ERDF) for the renovation of the tourist infrastructure of the WH Property. In the period 2009-2011: 2,5 mio € and in the period 2013-2015 1.650.000 €. Both projects have been cofinanced by Republic of Slovenia-Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.

**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	62%
Seasonal	38%

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

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

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

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

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

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Good
Community outreach	Good
Interpretation	Good
Education	Good
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Not applicable
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	High
Promotion	High
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	High
Education	High
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	High
Risk preparedness	High
Tourism	High
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**

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**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**

books.google.si/books?printsec=frontcover&id=UHQ16wtGUYcC#v=onepage&q&f=false ojs.zrc-sazu.si/carsologica/article/view/241  
link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11356-013-2080-4 ojs.zrc-sazu.si/carsologica/article/view/86  
www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1617138113001015 link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fb03175841 ojs.zrc-sazu.si/carsologica/article/view/121

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

Property Manager has been participating in several international projects, e.g. Monitoring of the underground Reka River course (Interreg IIIA Slovenia-Italy), Monitoring of the World Heritage (UNESCO Participation Programme 2012-2013) and CLIMAPARKS (ERDF-Slovenia-Italy Transnational Programme). Ecosystem services study: park-skocjanske-jame.si/download/Ecosystem\_Services\_Evaluation.pdf

**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	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Poor

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

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

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

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

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

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

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

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

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

The information centre, including the information booths and souvenir shop is currently under reconstruction and will be finished in 2015. The renovation is financed by ERDF and Republic of Slovenia-Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.

**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	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

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

Entry tickets and registries
Visitor surveys

**4.7.3 - Visitor management documents**

**Comment**

Visitor management is a crucial part of the Management Plan as well as yearly plans of work.

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

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

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

There is **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 a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

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

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

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

Implementation is **complete**

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

All the main recommendations are implemented: the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act was established and the pollution control of the Reka River is implemented and strengthened through it. The buffer zone is defined in the Act, too. The Management Plan of the Park is adopted. Currently, the potential highway stretch Postojna/Divača-Jelšanein the vicinity of the Property will be considered in the EIA



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

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#### 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>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>						
<b>3.2.1</b>	<b>Ground transport infrastructure</b>	Criteria VII and VIII: the Reka River-its quality and visual image. Additionally, fauna can be affected.	Cooperation with relevant institutions at preparing documents; occasional monitoring; raising public awareness (presentations, workshops). Property Manager also bought equipment for firemen for operations at spilling of dangerous matters.	Occasional monitoring-water sampling at incidents etc.; The trend is rather static.	Permanently; currently withing the Management Plan 2013-2017.	Government of the Republic of Slovenia (decision making);Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation;Property Manager, Slovenian Environment Agency; Karst Research Institute-Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences&Arts	The risk presents also transport of the oil liquids from the oil terminal in Croatia in the vicinity.
<b>3.2.4</b>	<b>Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure</b>	Criteria VII and VIII: the Reka River-its quality and visual image. Additionally, fauna can be affected.	Cooperation with relevant institutions at preparing documents; occasional monitoring; raising public awareness (presentations, workshops);Property Manager also bought equipment for firemen for operations at spilling of dangerous matters.	Occasional monitoring-water sampling at incidents etc.; The trend is rather static.	Permanently; currently withing the Management Plan 2013-2017.	Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation;Property Manager, Slovenian Environment Agency; Karst Research Institute-Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences&Arts	The risk presents also transport of the oil liquids from the oil terminal in Croatia in the vicinity.
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>						
<b>3.4.2</b>	<b>Ground water pollution</b>	Criteria VII and VIII: the Reka River-its quality and visual image. Additionally, fauna can be affected.	Cooperation and efforts of the Property Manager to establish infrastructure for sewage and water treatment; raising public awareness.	Occasional monitoring-water sampling at incidents etc.; The trend is rather static.	Permanently; currently withing the Management Plan 2013-2017.	Community of Divača (lead agency) and Property Manager.	Households within the Property for app. 70 inhabitants have their own cesspits for waste water but there is no common sewage treatment. Information centre of the Property has its own cesspit with 4 chests and is regularly cleaned.
<b>3.4.3</b>	<b>Surface water pollution</b>	Criteria VII and VIII: the Reka River-its quality and visual image. Additionally, fauna can be affected.	Cooperation and efforts of the Property Manager to establish infrastructure for sewage and water treatment; raising public awareness.	Regular monitoring is done by Slovenian Environment Agency. Chemical and ecological conditions of the water is "good" - "very good". Occasional monitoring-water sampling at incidents etc.	Permanently; currently withing the Management Plan 2013-2017.	Communities in the buffer zone (lead agencies), Slovenian Environment Agency and Property Manager.	Waste water treatment is order is only some of the settlements in the buffer zone. Most of the villages have cesspits. The risk form agriculture and industry is rather low, higer is from transport.
<b>3.4.5</b>	<b>Solid waste</b>	Criteria VII and VIII: the Reka River-its quality and visual image. Additionally, fauna can be affected.	Cleaning actions with local residents and raising public awareness.	Monitoring within ranger service. The trend of disposing solid waste is decreasing. Recent solid waste in the Property and in the buffer zone is not frequent.	Permanently; currently withing the Management Plan 2013-2017.	Property Manager (lead agency), local residents in the Property and local rafting club in the buffer zone.	Cleaning action in the Property is organized by Property Manager once a year with local residents. Local rafting club in the buffer zone organizes cleaning Reka River banks once a year. Property Manager cooperates at the event and supports it.
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>						

		<b>World Heritage criteria and attributes affected</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead agency (and others involved)</b>	<b>More info / comment</b>
3.8.6	<b>Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation</b>	Criteria VII and VIII: aesthetical value of the cave system; the quality of the Reka River. Additionally, fauna can be affected.	Changing the illumination (in progress-ERDF project), lampenflora cleaning, arranging the visitors in the off-season, developing the Park's trade mark. All the (construction) works are stopped during the nesting and wintering of the birds and bats.	Regular monitoring of the birds and bats, monitoring of the lampenflora. The number of birds and bats is static. Results of changed illumination in the lampenflora growth will be seen in the near future.	Permanently; currently withing the Management Plan 2013-2017.	Property Manager (lead agency), local residents, stakeholders, researchers, etc.	/

## 5.2. Summary - Management Needs

### 5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

<b>4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones</b>							
			<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead agency (and others involved)</b>	<b>More info / comment</b>	
4.1.5	<b>The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities/landowners</b>		Efforts of the Property Manager to raise awareness of the buffer zone through presentations, workshops, developing trade mark, network of schools, etc.	Permanently; currently withing the Management Plan 2013-2017.	Property Manganer (lead agency)	/	

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

**5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity**

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

**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**

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

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

/

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

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

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

yes

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

/

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

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Good

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

All required information was accessible

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

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value

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

UNESCO	Satisfactory
State Party	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

**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: Škocjan Caves are a combined system of 6 kms of underground passages. The Reka River disappears in the karst underground passing through an impressive and picturesque channel, one of the largest known underground canyons. The cave is also characterised by distinguished variations of limestone bedrock and speleothem formations. Additionally, rich biodiversity, the history of cave exploration, rich archaeology finds and cultural heritage contribute to the OUV of the property.

• **Geographic Information Table**

Reason for update: The buffer zone of the property covers 45002,53 ha. The new methodology shows that the exact area of the property is 401,05 ha.

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

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