

State of Conservation Report

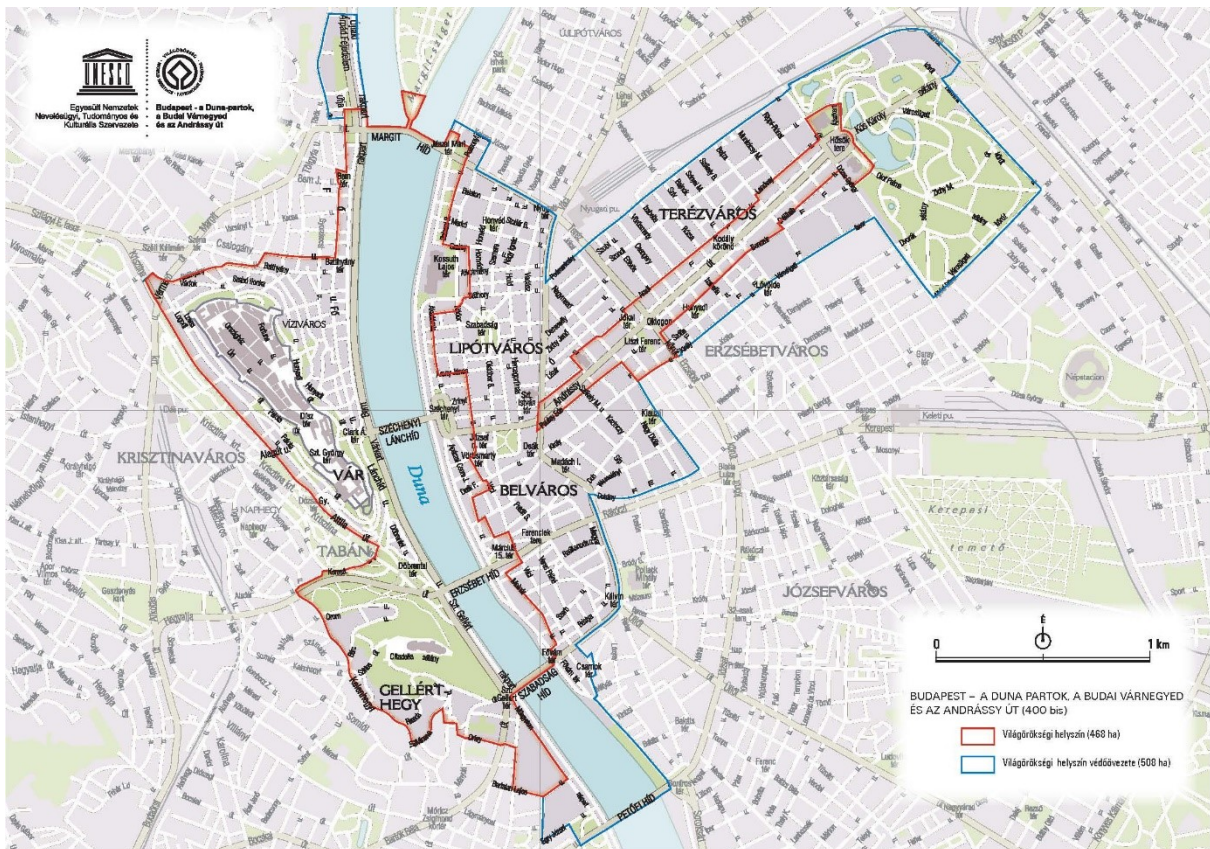
Budapest, Including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue

World Heritage Site

Hungary

Inscribed on the World Heritage List under number C 400 in 1987

Extension: 400bis, in 2002



Budapest

February 2019

Summary
of the State of Conservation Report
Budapest, Including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter
and Andrásy Avenue
World Heritage Site, Hungary
Inscribed on the World Heritage List under number C 400 in 1987
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Budapest
28 February 2019

The present report has been drawn up according to the guidelines and formal requirements specified under Annex 13 to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO, in response to the questions and recommendations adopted under Decision 41 COM 7B.46 of the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Krakow in 2017. The State Party has taken utmost account of the document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add, 46. Budapest pp. 42-45. on the State of Conservation, and of Decision 39 COM 7B.79 (Bonn, 2015) while preparing the present report. It has also taken into account and answered the questions and recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission (Report on the ICOMOS Advisory Mission to “Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue” (Hungary) (C 400 and 400bis), and the questions raised in the letter of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre dated 4 December 2018 and its annex.

Part I of the present document answers the questions raised by the WH Committee point by point. Where the same question occurs also in the letter of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission and/or that of the WH Centre, a single, joint response has been formulated. Accordingly, the current Hungarian legislative background can provide proper protection for the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property; the State Party does everything to ensure that developments and investments should not harm them in any way. To this end, the organisational structure of domestic heritage conservation has been transformed, and its further improvement is underway. Although the 120 m high MOL Campus may be built on the basis of the former regulations, the impact assessment has shown that its visual impact on the World Heritage property is minimal. The State Party will extend the buffer zone to Margaret Island and to the area west of Buda Castle. The approved financial budget will be used to prepare the Management Plan of the World Heritage property by early 2021. Pursuant to the 2018 amendment of the Construction Act, buildings higher than 65 m, up to max. 90 m may only be constructed by exceptional authorisation procedure, but that exception is not applicable to areas where that could mean exerting a negative impact on World Heritage property. The Museum of Ethnography and the Biodome will not be visible from Hősök tere (Heroes’ Square) World Heritage property, so there is no need to modify the plans as a result of the impact assessment. Radetzky Barracks will retain their original form during the revitalisation of the building block; they will contribute at a higher level to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site thanks to the rehabilitation. Large-scale interventions in Buda Castle pay tribute to Hungarian historical tradition and national pride by aiming to restore the original pre-World War II status <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/documents/>; at the same time, they contribute to the fuller and higher-level unfolding of the assets of that site. The report presents and evaluates works completed in 2018 (Carmelite Monastery), works in progress (Riding School (Lovarda), Main Guard (Főőrség), Stöckl stairs, Ybl buttress), envisaged developments (St Stephen’s Hall, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance) and

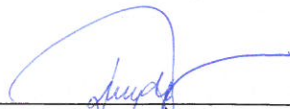
also future plans through the presentation of the respective Conservation Plans. All these will be included in detail in the National Hauszmann Programme to be worked out in 2019 pursuant to Government Decisions NO. 1034 and 1035/2019 (13 February) allocating a substantial financial budget to the effort.

The ICOMOS Advisory Mission invited for 4-8 February 2018 has made 17 recommendations that are thoroughly answered in the present document.

In line with information provided to the World Heritage Centre before the expiry of the deadline, the State Party fulfils the requirement of preparing its State of Conservation report after the deadline, for technical reasons, by submitting the present document, that can thus be put up for discussion at the World Heritage Committee session to be held in Summer 2019 in Baku. Consultations concerning the exact date of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission are underway between the State Party and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Part II of the report answers the remaining questions raised by the ICOMOS Advisory Mission and the World Heritage Centre. The conservation of local cultural heritage is the responsibility of the Municipality of Budapest and the municipalities of the districts, respectively, and assistance programmes are being drawn up for this purpose. The heritage conservation legislation does not distinguish the external and internal parts of historic monument buildings, but always considers them a single whole. All interventions must be preceded by drawing up an inventory of historic values. Óriáskerék Kft. (Giant Wheel Ltd.) has a short-term contract that cannot be renewed after the management plan is completed. Pursuant to the effective municipal regulations, subsidy schemes were introduced for owners of property on the territory of World Heritage properties and their buffer zones. Extra costs may be covered for historic monuments based on Section 81 of the Act LXIV of 2001 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage. The relevant tendering system will be prepared in 2019, and the relevant financial means will be made available from 2020 on. Roof-space conversion is appropriately regulated and the rules are to be applied strictly in historic monument and World Heritage property areas. Additional municipal regulations may prevent the excessive construction of additional storeys and excessive roof-space conversions. Government Decree No. 68/2018. (IV.9) defines the content and form requirements of activities planned on protected monument assets in detail; that is the basis of the Conservation Plan. The World Heritage Centre was provided false information on the former MAHART building. The shape of the roof will be retained, and the cupola on the corner will regain its original form almost fully.

The document includes a CD annex containing the relevant assessments, plans and other documentations made since 2016.



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