



**Ministry of Civil Affairs**

---

Ref.No: 10-35-1-621-JDŽ/19  
Sarajevo, 27 November 2019

**UNESCO**  
**World Heritage Centre**  
**Attn: Ms. Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel**  
**7, Place de Fontenoy**  
**75352 Paris CEDEX 07**  
**France**

**SUBJECT:** State of Conservation report

Dear Ms. Anatole-Gabriele,

In accordance with the World Heritage Committee Decision 42 COM 7B.19, we hereby submit the State of Conservation report for the World Heritage property Stećci-Medieval Tombstones Graveyards (1504), prepared by the competent authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Please note, that the State of Conservation report and its appendices were submitted to the World Heritage Centre by email as well.

We stay at your disposal for any additional information you might require.

Sincerely yours,

**Secretary of the Ministry**

**Biljana Čamur Veselinović**





## STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

For the World Heritage Property

**Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards**  
**(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia)**  
**(ID No. 1504)**

**1. Summary**

After the inscription of *Stećci* – Medieval Tombstone Graveyards on the World Heritage List (the World Heritage Committee Decision 40 COM 8B.24), and following the adoption of the first State of Conservations report (Decision: 42 COM 7B.19) submitted in 2017, the four countries have continued to implement the measures defined in the Management Plan, in particular those concerning the requests of the World Heritage Committee.

A coordination established in accordance with the Management Plan has continued its activities as foreseen by the International Coordination Committee's (ICC) Rules of Procedure. These activities include regular meetings and continuous email communication. The Republic of Serbia presided over the ICC in 2018, and the Republic of Croatia took over the chairmanship in 2019.

Activities of planning and developing a unique system of mapping and cataloguing of *stećci* have been initiated and they are coordinated through ICC. The activities were undertaken to further research the sites, including 3D recordings of all decorated *stećci*, as well as 3D recording of the overall site and its immediate surroundings (core zone + buffer zone) in Cista Velika and Konavle, Croatia, and a detailed geophysical, geological, conservation and preventive archaeological research on all three inscribed sites in Montenegro.

Documents that are to be used for the preparation of *Stećci* Conservation Strategy were defined in consultations with experts from all four countries and using the materials from the workshop on the conservation of stone, organised by Montenegro and facilitated by Mr. Simon Warrack, an ICOMOS expert. The *Stećci* Conservation Strategy is expected to be finalised by the middle of 2020.

The monitoring indicators to assess the impact of development and tourism have been developed, adopted by the ICC and used for preparation of reports on the monitoring outcomes. Due to the specific position of the necropolis with *stećci* inscribed on the World Heritage List, the tourist visits are not at a level to endanger the sites.

Activities were undertaken related to the preparation of the rulebook for development of the risk management plan for *stećci* sites. The rulebook will be prepared by experts from Serbia based on their experience in that field and the translated UNESCO Risk Management Handbook ("Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage").

The Site Manager Training Plan was developed and is already in use in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the upcoming period, it will be adjusted for use in other three countries in accordance with the management systems set forth by the individual Management Plans and taking into consideration different organisation of services responsible for the site protection in each of the participating countries.

Continuous efforts have been made to promote *stećci* as the World Heritage property. Several exhibitions and lectures on *stećci* were held and monographs were published in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. There are eight new necropolises with *stećci* that have been designated the



National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina and five new sites with *stećci* that have been put under protection in Croatia.

The regular monitoring of the sites has not identified any changes that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

## **2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee**

### ***a) Continue implementing a consistent mapping and cataloguing system for the components of the serial property,***

Within the ICC, during regular meetings and through email communication as foreseen by the ICC Rules of Procedure, countries exchange information and coordinate mapping and cataloguing activities in accordance with the Management Plan.

#### **- Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

*The Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, as a part of its activities laid down in Annex VIII of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted decisions by which five necropolises with *stećci* were proclaimed national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018, and three in 2019. These necropolises are not on the UNESCO list, but the properties for which petitions were filed, and which have not been protected earlier.

*Mak Dizdar Foundation (NGO)* implemented a "Carved in Stone" project aimed to bring young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina together through the study, protection, and promotion of cultural heritage, with a focus on *stećci* – the medieval tombstone graveyards. The project included teams of young people from five municipalities (Posušje, Trebinje, Stolac, Foča and Travnik) who worked on registration, research and mapping of *stećci* necropolises. The project covered 32 sites with *stećci*, two of which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List (Boljuni, Stolac and Mramor in Vrbica, Foča). The project results were published on the website <https://stecakmap.info/>.

*Radimlja Public Institution*, competent for managing the Radimlja necropolis, near Stolac, published a monograph titled "Talking with Radimlja" which presents this necropolis with *stećci*, which is one of the most valuable sites of this kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The monograph is comprised of scientific texts with maps, brief descriptions and photographs of each monument.

- Entity Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH): All necropolises in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina were mapped during the work on the preparation of the Nomination File and any changes observed during the annual monitoring are being documented. The activities related to the organisation, planning and developing additional activities have been developed in accordance with the available budget.

- Entity Republika Srpska (RS): All necropolises in the Republika Srpska were mapped as a part of the work on the Nomination File. A record sheet was prepared for each individual *stećak* comprised of the following data: registration number, name of the necropolis, type, dimensions, orientation, condition, inscriptions, ornaments, date of the data recording, working team... There is also a section for recording of changes observed during the annual monitoring. It is a program for which the funds are secured annually.

#### **- Croatia:**

During the work on the Nomination File, both inscribed sites from Croatia (Velika and Mala Crljivica, Cista Velika; and St. Barbara, Dubravka, Konavle) were catalogued in terms of detailed description and photo documentation of all *stećci* at each site. In addition to the photo documentation during the



work on the nomination, and in the last year, 3D recordings of all decorated *stećci* in Cista Velika and in Konavle were made, as well as a 3D recording of the entire site and its immediate surroundings (core zone + buffer zone).

Concerning the *stećci* sites that are not inscribed on the World Heritage List, decisions were made for the protection of 5 (five) new *stećci* sites in the past two years.

In October 2019, an extensive scientific monograph by Domagoj Perkić (Dubrovnik Museums) was published under the title “*Stećci* and Other Late Medieval Gravestones in the Western Dubrovnik Region”. The book covers 73 sites in the Dubrovnik coastline and Elaphites (islands between Dubrovnik and Mljet). Out of this total number of sites, 40 of them include *stećci*, and some of them have never been registered in the scientific literature.

The website [www.stecak.hr](http://www.stecak.hr) has been created. The website was initiated by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the immediate cause for this was inscription of *stećci* on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The main objective of the project is to present this segment of medieval heritage to the professional and general public and raising the awareness of the importance of their preservation. The final goal is the creation of a digital database of all Croatian sites where *stećci* can be found and improvement of the system of their preservation.

**- Montenegro:**

In 2018 and 2019, geophysical, geological, conservation and preventive archaeological research, which did not affect the integrity of the cultural property, was conducted. The research covered three sites in municipalities of Plužine and Žabljak, but primarily the sites of Bara Žugića and Grčko groblje (Greek Cemetery) in the municipality of Žabljak, due to their topography. It showed an increased number of *stećci* in the municipality of Žabljak, which in time had sunk into the ground and are covered with vegetation. At the same time, documentation and photographic records were prepared for each *stećak*. In comparison to the documentation prepared earlier such documentation was supplemented by the following data: position, graphical features and dimensional analysis, recorded damages including data on physical, chemical and biological damages (with the described damage, cause and consequence), as well as the data on the geological analysis of the terrain where the necropolis is situated.

**- Serbia:**

Detailed documentation on the condition of the three archaeological sites inscribed on the World Heritage List has been prepared in the Republic of Serbia: the state of all tombstones has been technically documented, the conservation studies, photo documentation of each monument, the geodetic plan of the position of all tombstone graveyards have been made. On Grčko groblje, Hrtta and Prijepolje sites, a 3D scanning of all tombstones was carried out using the photogrammetry. The interpolation of the sample from photographs for each point, a preliminary structure and thus a digital display of the tombstone is obtained. Since there were no changes in the field in 2018 and 2019, no new mapping and cataloguing were conducted.

***b) Developing active conservation programmes for the *stećci*, based on monitoring outcomes, and utilising the advice of skilled conservators,***

After the ICC members and experts from all four countries participated in a workshop on the topic of conservation of *stećci* organised by Montenegro and with participation of ICOMOS expert Mr. Simon Warrack, the activities related to collection of documentation required for preparation of the Strategy for Conservation of *Stećci* have been continued. It has been agreed that the following documents: “A General Methodological Approach to a Systematic Conservation of *Stećci*” (authors: Mirzah Fočo,



Milijana Okilj and Azra Hadžić – Bosnia and Herzegovina), materials prepared for the workshop “Conservation of *Stećci* – Medieval Tombstone Graveyards (author Simon Warrack), “Comments of the *Stećci* Conservation Workshop by Simon Warrack” (authors Maja Đorđević, Nevena Debljović Ristić, Aleksa Jelkić) will be used for creation of the *Stećci* Conservation Strategy in consultations with the conservation experts from all four countries. The *Stećci* Conservation Strategy is expected to be finalised by the middle of 2020.

**- Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

- Entity Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH):

In the past 15 years conservation of *stećci* – medieval tombstone graveyards was carried out on five selected sites (Radimlja, Boljuni, Bijača, Blidinje, Maculje). These *stećci* have been actively protected for a number of years with the continuous expert supervision. Similar activities have been initiated for the remaining sites through the local managers in coordination with the competent services that would provide for the participation of conservation experts.

- Entity Republika Srpska (RS):

Mramor, necropolis with *stećci* in Vrbica, Municipality of Foča

The undergrowth, leaves, litter, etc. was cleaned and the information board was placed as part of activities within the “Carved in Stone” project implemented under the sponsorship of Mak Dizdar Foundation from Sarajevo and organised by “Youth Association Foča” citizens’ association. The Republic Institute for the Protection of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of the Republika Srpska defined the technical protection measures, and the experts from the Institute supervised the works and participated in their implementation. A collaboration between the governmental and non-governmental sector was established and the activities contributed to raising the awareness of the importance of heritage. The project was implemented with the engagement of 15 volunteers, Foča Tourism Organisation, Old Herzegovina Museum in Foča and Foča Speleological Club.

Implementation of the “SOLMUS” project: Social Landscapes as Multicultural Spaces: *Stećci* in Bosnia and Herzegovina started in the first part of 2019. The project is supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the Institute.

The following institutions were also included in the implementation of the project:

- Ca’Foscari University Venice, Italy;
- University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia;
- University of Ljubljana, Slovenia;
- University of Belgrade, Serbia;
- Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, SAZU, Ljubljana, Slovenia;
- Stanford University, USA;
- University of Reading, UK;
- Koper Regional Museum and
- Institute for the Protection of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage, RS.

The project titled “Geophysical Research of Archaeological Sites in the Medieval Parish of Dabar” was implemented in 2019. The project activities included the geophysical survey that was carried out on the territory of the medieval necropolis with *stećci* and prehistoric tumulus in Hatelji and Grebnice site in the village of Suzina, where *stećci* are also found on a prehistoric tumulus. The above-mentioned sites are situated in the municipality of Berkovići. A complex of sites with *stećci* scattered in several groups was researched in the municipality of Bileća, in the village of Podosoje, Crkvina site in Milavići, where there are 352 *stećci* within the orthodox graveyard. The magnetic survey was also used along with the geophysical survey methods. The Republic Institute for the Protection of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of the Republika Srpska participated in the survey and the project was implemented in collaboration with dr. Saša Čaval, dr. Rob Fry and Megan Clements

(Reading University) and Radmilo Pekić. The project research was conducted by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Association, within Horizon 2020 – Research and Innovation Programme, together with the Research Executive Agency, European Commission. The second phase of the project included the survey of Crkvina site in Milavići and Hatelji.

The checklist was also prepared (Annex 1) used for monitoring of the status of necropolises in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**- Croatia:**

A detailed conservation and restoration analysis related to the state of the tombstones, was carried out for both Croatian sites in the period 2013 to 2016. The analysis included biological survey, petrographic analysis and different laboratory research. Furthermore, the experimental conservation and restoration works were carried out that were evaluated and the most successful methods were chosen as the methods that are to be used in the future. The experts from the Croatian Conservation Institute prepared a report on the state of *stećci* on both sites and concluded that no major changes were observed in the period 2016 to 2019 with regard to the damages of *stećci* and weathering of their surface.

The restoration works of the dry stone wall, which also represents the boundary of the “core” zone, started on the site in Konavli (Dubravka – St. Barbara). The dry stone wall was fully restored in the length of 160 m. A workshop was held on the topic of dry stone walling that was recognised as an important part of the Croatian traditional cultural heritage, and it was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2018.

Regular maintenance continues on Cista Velika site (mowing, removal of undergrowth, maintenance of the dry stone wall).

**- Montenegro:**

The implementation of certain conservation measures was proposed and relevant documentation for a continuous monitoring of the state of each particular *stećak* was prepared for three sites with *stećci* in municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine after a two-year campaign financed from the government budget and implemented by the Center for Conservation and Archeology of Montenegro in collaboration with the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) (geophysical research), Natural History Museum of Montenegro and Institute for Geological Survey of Montenegro. Each site was processed using a separate registry comprised of individual files for *stećci*. Detailed conservation survey was also carried out, and the historical and chronological documentation is in the process of creation. It covers both the method and the technology of making *stećci* at the relevant sites. Furthermore, a study is being created related to the implementation of the conservation measures for each *stećak* individually.

**- Serbia:**

In accordance with the decision of the WHC, and the ICC accordingly, that the conservation works should be carried out based on the recommendations and instructions of the expert conservators, no conservation works were carried out in 2018 and 2019.

***c) Developing and implementing monitoring indicators that include the impacts of development and tourism,***

ICC developed and adopted a document titled Monitoring Indicators to Assess the Impact of Development and Tourism (Annex 2).



**- Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

Due to the specific position of the necropolis with *stećci* inscribed on the World Heritage List, the tourist visits are not at a level to endanger the sites. Radimlja Necropolis is the only site where it is possible to track and determine the exact number of visitors since the site can be entered only by purchasing admission tickets and accompanied by a guide, thus preventing any potential damages to the *stećci* and to the site in general.

The monitoring reports for the sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina are found in the Annex 3 to this report.

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity, the site managers regularly visit sites, maintain them, carry out visual inspection of the necropolises and *stećci*, and report to the competent authorities about the findings.

In the Republika Srpska entity, the sites are monitored and the results of monitoring are compiled as a report. The monitoring is carried out using defined and adopted monitoring indicators for the assessment of the impact of development and tourism.

**- Croatia:**

Both Croatian sites still have not become huge tourist attractions so that there is no risk of pressure caused by tourism. However, taking into consideration the vicinity of the large coastal tourist destinations (Dubrovnik Cavtat, Split and Makarska) and the attempts to expand and disperse the tourist offer to the inland, the sites should be prepared to endure the tourist pressure. In particular, this may be the case with the site in Cista Velika that is situated next to the main road (D-60 state road) of that part of Croatia. The data of the road company "Hrvatske ceste d.o.o." obtained from the traffic counter show daily traffic of around 2800 vehicles, whereas this number goes up to 3379 vehicles per day during the summer months. When these numbers are compared to the data from the previous years, the growing trend is obvious. Therefore, a conceptual design has been created that aims at redirection of traffic i.e. building of a bypass and a smaller visitor centre. It must be emphasized that in case of implementation of this project, the building would take place outside the buffer zone of the site. The project is now in its initial phase and the goal of this phase is to examine the possibilities and methods of improving the site and organising visits. We must point out that no works on the site may be carried out based on this project. Furthermore, the works may neither endanger the universal value of this site nor put any of the site's components at risk. Attached to the report is a segment of the conceptual design (Annex 4).

**- Montenegro:**

The UNESCO Montenegro Office and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism implemented the project of placing tourist signs for three sites in the municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine. Tourist visits are monitored by tourism organisations that operate in the above municipalities in collaboration with local authorities and local managers. For now, no tourist pressure is recorded that would affect the state of the site. The Tourism Organisation of Žabljak prepared a tourist map that points out cultural and historical values of the municipality and that includes two sites with *stećci*.

**- Serbia:**

The tourism organisations competent on the relevant territory are in the process of developing monitoring indicators for evaluating the impact of development and tourism, based on the recommendations of the indicators distributed by the ICC. The visits to the sites are minimal and do not jeopardize the universal value of the cultural property.

***d) Developing and implementing consistent Heritage Impact Assessment and Disaster Risk Management approaches within the transnational management system,***

The experts from all four countries regularly attend workshops on heritage impact assessment and disaster risk management. ICC decided that a rulebook for the development of risk management plan for *stećci* sites should be prepared based on the translated UNESCO risk management handbook and current experience of the experts from the Republic of Serbia in this segment. The creation of this regulation is in progress.

**- Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

The experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the “Managing Disaster Risks in UNESCO Designated Sites” workshop organised by the UNESCO Regional Office in October 2016 as well as in the Regional the “Heritage Impact Assessment” workshop held in December 2018 in Kotor, Montenegro.

In the upcoming period, a risk management study needs to be prepared for each individual site with regard to the current plans of local communities and higher-level plans, since the natural disasters are the highest detected risks. In the past period, there were no risks that would endanger the *stećci* sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

**- Croatia:**

In this period, no significant risks to the sites with *stećci* were recorded. There was a smaller earthquake in the Imotski region (Crljivica, Cista Velika) at the beginning of 2018, but it did not affect *stećci*.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, Administration for Protection of Cultural Heritage plans to release a publication titled “Managing Risks for World Heritage” (Published in 2010 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN) at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020.

The publication is already translated, but the graphic typesetting and printing are pending. The publication will be available free of charge in PDF *online*, as well as in hard copy.

**- Montenegro:**

The experts from Montenegro participated in the regional workshop “Heritage Impact Assessment” held in Kotor, Montenegro in December.

**- Serbia:**

No earthquakes, fires, or extraordinary climate changes that could have affected the sites were recorded in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2018 - 2019. The status of the sites and tombstones has been monitored on a regular basis – it was found that there were no changes on medieval tombstone graveyards, or in the buffer zone.

***e) Continuing to organize and provide capacity development activities for site managers in relation to these objectives,***

The ICC members were introduced with the document titled “The Training Plan for Site Managers” at the 5<sup>th</sup> ICC meeting held in Belgrade in November 2018. The Training Plan was prepared in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the upcoming period, the document will be harmonised with the “*Stećci* Conservation Strategy” that is being developed. Afterwards, it will be used as guidelines in all four countries depending on the needs in accordance with the management systems that are defined by the



individual Management Plans and by taking into consideration different organisation of the protection services in each country.

**- Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

The system for management of the components of serial property has been established in accordance with the Management Plan. “The Training Plan for Site Managers” was prepared and the first training for site managers was held in October 2018. The site managers are in a regular contact with the competent authorities and the joint meetings of the site managers and the Coordination Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Implementation of the *Stećci* Medieval Tombstones Management Plan were held as well. Another training for the site managers is planned to be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the end of 2019. The training should also include field work.

**- Croatia:**

No “site managers” were foreseen in Croatia and any activity related to the above mentioned goals and objectives are organised, managed and supervised in coordination with the competent Conservation Departments in Dubrovnik and Imotski in collaboration with the local administration (Municipality of Cista Provo, Municipality of Konavle) and local institutions (Konavle Museums and Galleries) as well as other government and local institutions.

Several different events and activities were organised in the period 2018-2019 in order to popularise this part of the heritage and introduce the scientific community and general public with *stećci*.

In collaboration with the Glyptothèque gallery of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts an exhibition titled “*Stećci*, Then and Now” was opened in Zagreb in November 2019. The exhibition is set up in the Glyptothèque gallery, which in its collection has plaster casts of *stećci* from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The exhibition is a product of collaboration between the Glyptothèque gallery and Ministry of Culture as well as other institutions. It presents individual sites from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina by putting the emphasis on the changes over time as well as scientific perspectives of those sites over past 50-70 years.

In September 2018 the lecture titled “Quarries and Processing of *Stećci* – Selected Examples” (Domingo Perkin, Ivan Aldus) was held as a part of a scientific conference organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, on the island of Rab (Cvito Fisković Days). The lecture was held again in Split in February 2019 because of the large interest of both scientific and general public.

**- Montenegro:**

The Ministry of Culture, National Management Authority and Center for Conservation and Archeology of Montenegro have provided a continuous support to the local managers.

**- Serbia:**

In accordance with the Management Plan defined at the international and state level, activities on ensuring adequate management have been carried out in the Republic of Serbia. In 2018 and 2019, a special activity referred to amendments of the Special Purpose Plan for Tara National Park where two properties are situated in the Municipality of Bajina Bašta. The Plan was adopted in September 2019. The experts’ articles on the topic of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List were published in the national and local professional journal.

**3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value**

**- Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

No new threats that may affect Outstanding Universal Value of the property were detected.

**- Croatia:**

Problems that can in any way affect the Universal Value of the property were not observed at the sites in Croatia.

**- Montenegro:**

No problems that might endanger the Universal Value of the sites in Montenegro were identified.

**- Serbia:**

The state of the sites and tombstones has been monitored on a regular basis – it was found that there were no changes on medieval tombstone graveyards, or in the buffer zone.

**4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.**

**- Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

A souvenir shop was built for Maculje necropolis, Novi Travnik, but it is located outside the defined boundary of the buffer zone. The facility does not endanger the outstanding universal value of the property.

Tourist signs were installed marking Maculje necropolis on the road between Travnik and Gornji Vakuf and on M16.4. The information boards were installed at the necropolises Maculje, Novi Travnik, Dugo polje, Blidinje, Radimlja, Stolac, Bijača, Ljubuški and Mramor at Vrbica, Foča. They also do not endanger the authenticity and integrity of these sites.

By monitoring and regular communication with the site managers, it was determined that there were no other changes to the sites, and no new threats to the Universal Value of the property have been identified.

**- Croatia:**

No major changes were observed within the boundaries of the inscribed properties, in the associated buffer zones as well as in the surrounding area that would negatively affect the property in any way. As specified earlier, a conceptual design has been created for Cista Velika site that aims at redirection of traffic i.e. building of a bypass and a smaller visitor centre. It must be emphasized that in case of implementation of this project, the building would take place outside the buffer zone of the site. The project is now in its initial phase and the goal of this phase is to examine the possibilities and methods of improving the site and organising visits. We must point out that no works on the site may be carried out based on this project. Furthermore, the works may neither endanger the universal value of this site nor put any of the site's components at risk.

**- Montenegro:**

Durmitor National Park is a World Heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO list in 1980. The property still does not have the buffer zone, but the process of defining the buffer zone will start soon in



accordance with the 2018 Report of the UNESCO Counselling Mission. Still, because of the vicinity of this territory we point out to the mission conclusion that refers to this topic: "The World Heritage site, Durmitor National Park, is located in the vicinity of "Grčko groblje, Žabljak" (Greek Graveyard, Žabljak) and "Bare Žugića, Žabljak" that a component parts of the *Stećci* – Medieval Tombstone Graveyards, the transnational World Heritage property. The Mission visited both components that are situated between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> kilometre of the planned ski track and between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> kilometre of the current boundaries of Durmitor National Park, the World Heritage site. Because of their locations, the Mission finds that any building of infrastructure and facilities between both properties, either at the bottom or on the slopes of the very representative and outstanding Savin kuk mountain, could be relevant for the wider landscape and surrounding area of the "Grčko groblje, Žabljak" and "Bare Žugića, Žabljak" components.

**- Serbia:**

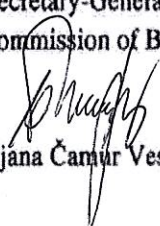
No changes on medieval tombstones in the Republic of Serbia have been found by monitoring and through the regular communication with representatives of key institutions in the municipalities of Bajina Bašta and Prijepolje. There were also no changes in core and buffer zones to three cultural properties, no activities were conducted that could endanger the outstanding universal value, as well as the authenticity and integrity of this cultural property.

**5. Public access to the state of conservation report**

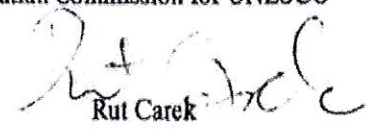
Four states agree that the State of Conservation report for the World Heritage property *Stećci* - Medieval Tombstone Graveyards is fully accessible to the public.

**6. Signature of the Authority**

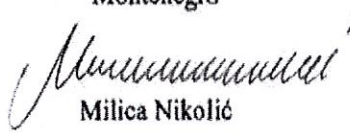
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Secretary-General of the  
National Commission of BIH for UNESCO

  
Biljana Čamur Veselinović

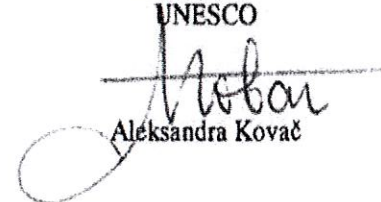
**Republic of Croatia**  
Secretary-General of the  
Croatian Commission for UNESCO

  
Rut Carek

**Montenegro**  
Secretary-General of the  
National Commission for UNESCO of  
Montenegro

  
Milica Nikolić

**Republic of Serbia**  
Secretary-General of the  
Commission of the Republic of Serbia for  
UNESCO

  
Aleksandra Kovač

## CHECKLIST

\* The answers provided under the “notes” section are for information only

<b>Name of the necropolis:</b>	
<b>Location</b> (provide the name of the site, hamlet-village and municipality):	
<b>Number of <i>stećci</i>:</b>	

Elements of site maintenance	The current state	Yes	No	Notes:
<b>1. Ground</b>	The soil is stable and is not subject to erosion.			
	The site is not eroded and there is no risk of skidding of <i>stećci</i> and graves from their original positions.			
	The necropolis is situated on the flat terrain. There are no risks of water accumulation and flooding the terrain in case of intensive rainfall.			
	The necropolis is situated on a slope and there is a risk of negative impact of the drainage water (landslides, washing away of bones from graves, washing away of movable objects from graves).			
	The humus sediments are removed to the extent permitted (up to 50 cm of maximum depth or in cracks). The tombstones are visually available.			
	The grass is mowed, the site is litter free and arranged in accordance with its landscape features.			
	The progressive expansion of the root system of high trees causes movement of the soil, uplifting and overturning of <i>stećci</i> .			



	<p>The site is fenced.</p> <p>The access to the site is controlled.</p>			
<b>2.Connections</b>				
2.1. Pedestrian connections	The footpaths at the site are well maintained, with no holes and they are not subject to flooding.			
2.2. Visual connections	The signposts on the way to the necropolis are clearly marked and visually designed in accordance with the legislation on tourist signs.			
	The site comprises an information table with the data relevant for this cultural property.			
2.3. Road connections	The roads run next to the site, but do not cross it.			
<b>3. Sepulchral architecture</b>				
3.1. Tombstones	<i>Stećci</i> are situated on their original positions.			
	Tombstones do not sink.			
	There are no fractures, splits or damages to the stone surfaces of <i>stećci</i> that would require conservation and restoration works.			
	There are no pests and sediments of the products of corrosion from the atmosphere.			
	Decorative compositions and inscriptions on <i>stećci</i> are visible and readable.			
	The statics of the tombstones is intact, without visible inclinations.			

<b>3.2. Grave architecture</b>	The graves sink, which causes sinking of tombstones as well.			
<b>4. Effect of urbanisation and development</b>	The site of the necropolis is intact in its (authentic) natural environment.			
<b>5. Security</b>	The entry and movement within the site is controlled. The site is accessible (there are no physical barriers on the footpaths for people with disabilities and older people).			
<b>6. Drainage system</b>	The drainage system is in place and regularly maintained.			
<b>7. The overall condition of the site</b>	E. The site is in excellent condition, well maintained. G. The site is in good condition, smaller interventions are required. B. The site is in bad condition, restoration is required. D. The site is deserted, implementation of the preventive measures is required.			
Priority actions:				
Special notes:				
Surveyors:				
Place and date:				



### C) DEVELOPING MONITORING INDICATORS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE SERIAL PROPERTY

#### INDICATORS

THEME	INDICATOR	METHOD OF MEASUREMENT	How often	STATUS
USES & INTERPRETATION				
<b>Tourism</b>				
	Number of visitors to the WHS	Ticket count for paying sites or annual visitors survey	Annual update	
	Distribution of visitors in time and space	The number of visitors at different times of year and at key locations	Annual update	
	Physical impact of tourism	List of negative physical impacts and remedial measures in place or recommended	Every 5 years	
	Impact of tourism on local community	Assessment based on resident surveys, focus groups, discussion with local councils, etc.	Every 5 years	
	Social inclusion	Is there a social inclusion agenda in place? Yes/No		
	Impact of visitors on WHS status	List of negative impacts	Every 5 years	
	Impact of visitors on residence	Resident survey	Every 5 years	
<b>Development</b>				
	Infrastructure development	The annual report which provides a brief description and photographs of major physical changes in the WHS	Annual update	
	Impact of traffic on WHS (a threat on some sites)	Traffic surveys	Continuous	Low impact
	Changes in the landscape	Photographic survey and report identifying intrusive elements and review of changes in the use of land, recent developments.	Annual update	

#### REFERENCES:

1. *UNESCO CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS*, Methodology Manual, Paris, 2014
2. *Sustainable Tourism Development in UNESCO, Designated Sites in South-Eastern Europe*, UNESCO Office in Venice, ENEP-United Nations Environment Programme, Ecological Tourism in Europe – ETE, 2009
3. *The Cape Town Declaration: Responsible Tourism in Destinations*, 2002 (The Cape Town Conference on Responsible Tourism in Destinations, Side event preceding the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002)
4. *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, WHC, 2016
5. *Management planning of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Guidelines for the development, implementation and monitoring of management plans*, Kotor, 2016
6. *Managing Cultural World Heritage, (World Heritage Resource Manual)* UNESCO World Heritage Centre Paris, UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN. 2013

**Annex 3**

**MONITORING INDICATORS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE SERIAL PROPERTY – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA REPORT**

**INDICATORS**

THEME	INDICATOR	METHOD OF MEASUREMENT	How often	STATUS
<b>USES &amp; INTERPRETATION</b>				
<b>Tourism</b>				
	Number of visitors to the WHS	Ticket count for paying sites or annual visitors survey	Annual update	There is no data for the exact number because no necropolis sells tickets except for Radimlja. According to data from the local tourism organizations, there is greater interest since the necropolises were inscribed on the World Heritage List, but the number of visitors is still low.
	Distribution of visitors in time and space	The number of visitors at different times of year and at key locations	Annual update	The visits are mainly in the summer period (May-September)
	Physical impact of tourism	List of negative physical impacts and remedial measures in place or recommended	Every 5 years	The number of visitors is not high and for now no negative impact was detected. A detailed report will be made (based on a five-year state of conservation analysis) after the end of the 5 years period.
	Impact of tourism on local community	Assessment based on resident surveys, focus groups, discussion with local councils, etc.	Every 5 years	The production of souvenirs in the form of stećaks has begun. So far, there is no major impact on local communities. After 5 years a detailed report will be made.
	Social inclusion	Is there a social inclusion agenda in place? Yes/No		NO
	Impact of visitors/on WHS status or residents	Resident survey	Every 5 years	The International Coordinating Committee was agreed to develop surveys. Drafting of survey questionnaires is the process.



Development				
	Infrastructure development	The annual report which provides a brief description and photographs of major physical changes in the WHS	Annual update	There were no construction of buildings, roads and such, in the tangent zones of the necropolises.
	Impact of traffic on WHS (a threat on some sites)	Traffic surveys	Continuous	The impact of traffic is negligible. Necropolises are not located near busy roads.
	Changes in the landscape	Photographic survey and report identifying intrusive elements and review of changes in the use of land, recent developments.	Annual update	There were no changes in the landscape.

MONITORING INDICATORS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE SERIAL  
PROPERTY – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – RADIMLJA - REPORT

**INDICATORS**

THEME	INDICATOR	METHOD OF MEASUREMENT	How often	STATUS
<b>USES &amp; INTERPRETATION</b>				
<b>Tourism</b>				
	Number of visitors to the WHS- Radimlja	Ticket count for paying sites or annual visitors survey	Annual update	In 2018 11 000 tickets to visit necropolis Radimlja was sold.  In 2019 13 500 tickets was sold
	Distribution of visitors in time and space	The number of visitors at different times of year and at key locations	Annual update	The visits are mainly in the period between April and November.
	Physical impact of tourism	List of negative physical impacts and remedial measures in place or recommended	Every 5 years	The tourists are able to visits necropolis Radimlja only in guided tours, so regardless of the increase in number of visitations there is no negative impacts to the site. A detailed report will be made (based on a five-year state of conservation analysis) after the end of the 5 years period.
	Impact of tourism on local community	Assessment based on resident surveys, focus groups, discussion with local councils, etc.	Every 5 years	Increase in tourist visits has created new job openings and 4 new people has been employed at Radimlja.  The production of stećak related souvenirs has begun. After 5 years a detailed report will be made.
	Social inclusion	Is there a social inclusion agenda in place? Yes/No		Yes
	Impact of visitors/on WHS status or residents	Resident survey	Every 5 years	The International Coordinating Committee was agreed to develop surveys. Drafting of survey questionnaires is the process.



Development				
	Infrastructure development	The annual report which provides a brief description and photographs of major physical changes in the WHS	Annual update	There were no construction of buildings, roads and such, in the tangent zones of the necropolis.
	Impact of traffic on WHS (a threat on some sites)	Traffic surveys	Continuous	The proximity of a busy road has somewhat negative impact on the necropolis.
	Changes in the landscape	Photographic survey and report identifying intrusive elements and review of changes in the use of land, recent developments.	Annual update	There were no changes in the landscape.



Cista Velika site (Croatia) - the road construction conceptual design for the road that will run outside the core area and buffer zone (UNESCO protection). The green road embankment, which the visitor's centre will be set into, shields the site against noise and views and minimises the visual impact of the visitor's centre on the site.