



Institutul Național al
Patrimoniului

Ministerul Culturii

Roșia Montană

Mining Landscape

(1552 rev. Romania)

State of Conservation Report

[in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational
Guidelines]

January 2022

1. Executive Summary of the report

No desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the World Heritage in Danger List (DSOCR) has yet been presented to the World Heritage Committee. The property was only inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2021 - and simultaneously inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger with the encouragement of the State Party – see 44 COM 8C.1

The process of developing a DSOOCR started in December 2021 through an online virtual meeting between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, and State Party representatives, and will continue through online meetings in 2022.

The DSOOCR will be focussed to address two principal aims:

- To ensure protection of the property by mitigating the potentially negative effects of mining activities on OUV, using legal measures including planning controls, as necessary and as soon as appropriate .
- To ensure adequate conservation and management that will safeguard and sustain the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity.

In addition to the above, the State Party is also committed to improving the state of conservation of the later mining heritage, to generally enhancing the visitor experience, and to improving opportunities within the local economy for residents and others.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee¹

The property was inscribed in 2021 and simultaneously inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger – see 44 COM 8C.1

No desired state of conservation for removal (DSOCR) has yet been presented to the World Heritage Committee. The process of developing a DSOOCR started in December 2021 through an online virtual meeting between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, and State Party representatives. In view of the Covid pandemic, and instead of a physical on-site meeting (should such a meeting not be possible), a series of online meetings in 2022 was agreed as the best way forward to progress this.

While the above development process will continue over the coming months, actions concerning the DSOOCR of Roşia Montană Mining Landscape for its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger should correspond to meeting the following objectives of the World Heritage Committee Decision:

- Halting the approval of mining permits at the property – this item cannot be addressed by the Romanian Government during arbitration. Action depends on the outcome of the arbitration.
- Developing planning controls / prevention of mining which has the potential to negatively impact OUV – this item cannot be addressed by

¹ [Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

the Romanian Government during arbitration. Action depends on the outcome of the arbitration.

- Updating the legal framework under new legislation in Government Decision 857 (adopted 11 August 2021) and establishing a Management Programme driven by a new management Committee, to include all relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- Revising the property Management Plan to focus on the adopted OUV and attributes as detailed in Decision 44 COM 8B.26.
- Developing an internationally supported Conservation Plan for general attributes and Roman-era attributes.
- Developing an inspection and maintenance plan for the 18th/19th century header ponds.
- Developing a Sustainable Visitor Management Strategy, including interpretation and presentation.

Summary responses to specific World Heritage Committee recommendations (paragraphs 5 and 6 of Decision 44 COM 8B.26):

- The State Party welcomes a reactive monitoring mission, but as an outcome of the initial online session between UNESCO, ICOMOS, and the State Party, it was suggested to the State Party that due to Covid restrictions and the nature of the recommendations involved with developing a Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, a mission was not absolutely necessary and that the process could be handled by a series of online meetings.
- a) Halting the approval of mining permits at the property - this item cannot be addressed by the Romanian Government during arbitration. Action depends on the outcome of the arbitration.
b) The General Urban Plan was already included in the annual programme of the Ministry of Development and will be initiated in 2022, followed by the Zonal Urban Plan in 2023. Both will be submitted in draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS as soon as they become available.
c) A comprehensive refinement and augmentation of the Management Plan was already initiated and will continue in 2022.
 - (i) An internationally supported conservation plan for the Roman remains is already under discussion and will build on the national and international expertise already convened for the nomination.
 - (ii) A management tourism strategy will be initiated in 2023, informed by an interpretive strategy following guidance of the ICOMOS Ename Charter.
 - (iii) All key stakeholders will now be involved in the management of the property following the new legal and

management framework passed in 2021 (Government Decision no. 857/August 21, 2021).

(iv) The State Party shall commit adequate human and financial resources for its implementation.

d) An inspection and maintenance plan for the modern header ponds will be initiated in 2022.

e) A revised monitoring programme for the property will be devised in 2022 and integrated into the property management plan.

All the above actions in response to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee timetabled, together with responsibilities and suggested indicators, are detailed in a draft DSOCR (January 2022) for consideration during the series of online meetings between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, and the State Party.

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

There are state of conservation issues in terms of 18th- and 19th-century elements within the property, in addition to the header ponds identified. These (such as churches and important houses), while of a much later phase and not directly attributed to OUV, are nonetheless important in the presentation of the continuity of the property's mining heritage. They also have great potential to add to the visitor experience and contribute to the wellbeing of the local community. Addressing these issues, the Ministry of Culture, through the National Institute of Heritage, is funding conservation works on built heritage, within its two main funding instruments: the National Restoration Programme, and the Historic Monuments Tax (open call for projects launched in October 2021 and due at the beginning of February).

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.

None. As indicated in Romania's Ministry of Culture's letter to Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramirez of the World Heritage Centre dated 1 November 2021 (No. 7407), as the current holder of the License for mineral exploitation ("Roşia Montană Gold Corporation", or "RMGC") in the adjacent area has not secured all of the necessary permits, there is no immediate prospect of mining activities in Roşia Montană. However, we would like to remind the World Heritage Centre that, as we have stated in our previous

letter of 28 February 2020 (No. 1588), RMGC's compliance with the requirements under Romanian law to obtain the necessary permits is an issue which remains subject to a pending international arbitration between Romania and Gabriel Resources (RMGC's majority shareholder) before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (World Bank).

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party of Romania is content for the report to be made public through posting on the website of the World Heritage Centre.

6. Signature of the Authority

Lucian Romaşcanu, Minister of Culture

