

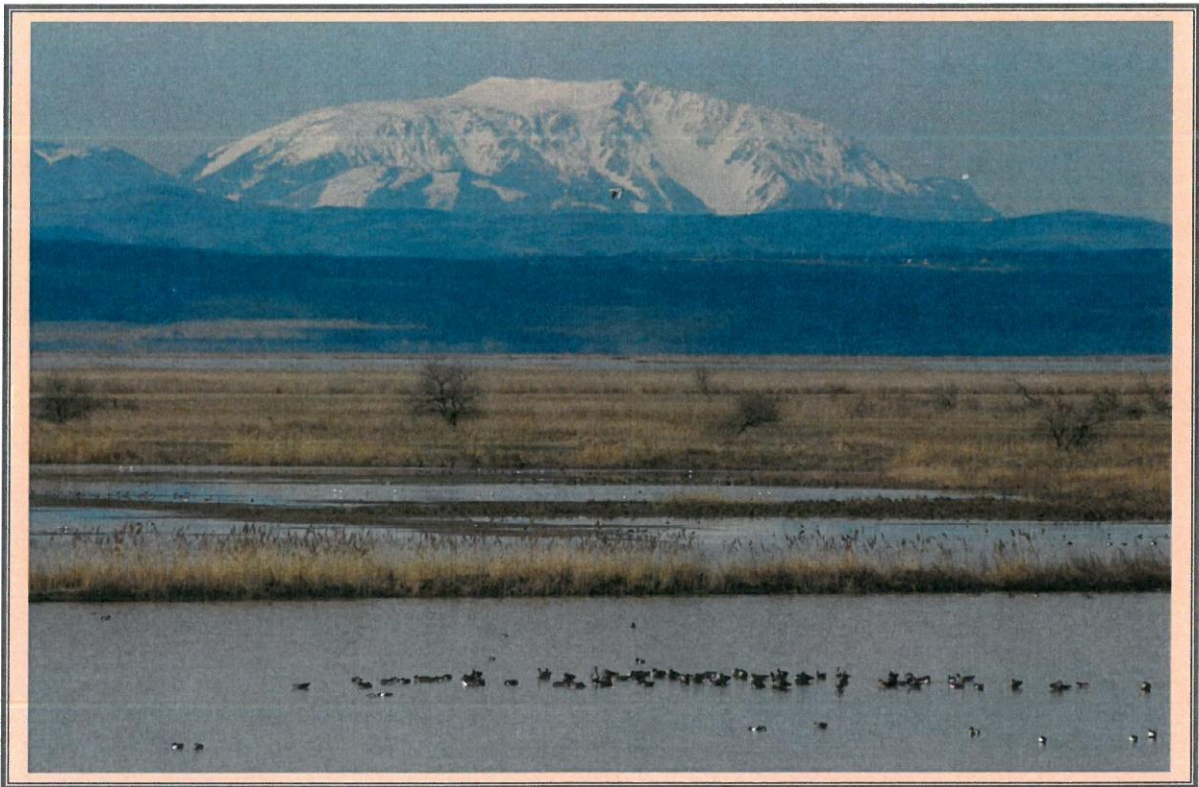
## State of Conservation Report

# Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria, Hungary) (772rev)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2001*

*Criterion: (v)*

*Area of the World Heritage property: 68,369 ha, buffer Zone: 6,347 ha*



Vienna/Budapest

January 2024

## 1. Executive Summary

- It is no exaggeration to say that 2022 marks the beginning of a new era in the joint management of the property that is well-illustrated by the following achievements:
  - joint elaboration and finalization of the Management Plan for the property,
  - ongoing online communication and regular face-to-face meetings between the parties,
  - the joint organisation and successful implementation of the Advisory Mission (2-5 October, 2023).
- The States Parties agreed on the following specific issues, in line with the recommendations of the Decision and the Advisory Mission:
  - finalization and formal approval of the jointly prepared Management Plan,
  - in accordance with chapters 3 and 6 of the Management Plan, development of a vision for the future of the property and lay down a shared strategy, including a strategy for tourism infrastructure and management, to ensure a sustainable and equitable use of the property compatible with its OUV,
  - communication and collaboration on the redevelopment projects of the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort (Hungary) and the Lakeside Resort in Breitenbrunn (Austria), with special respect to the operation of the eco-centre and the scale and size of the new buildings.
- Sopron Fertő Lake Resort
  - at the end of 2022 the construction works were suspended to review the entire project;
  - although a call for tenders was launched in October 2023 for the planning and implementation of the project with reduced content and volume, it cannot be expected that any construction activity would start in 2024.
- Apart from the ongoing construction sites in the seaside resorts of Fertőrákos and Breitenbrunn, which were visited as part of the Advisory Mission, there are currently no further plans to expand the infrastructure in or around Lake Fertő/Neusiedl. Before any future further development steps, an assessment of the existing and possible future cumulative effects should be examined.
- The new Management Plan for the World Heritage property can and should now be finalized, presented and decided immediately. The implementation of the measures provided for in the new Management Plan will be a priority task of the World Heritage Management in Hungary and Austria for the coming months and years. The revision of the 'Criteria for Building in World Heritage' should start within the year 2024.
- With regard to a proposed, possible water supply from the Danube to the Seewinkel-region to protect and preserve the sensitive landscape (soda pans) and possibly also with regard to a further water supply to Lake Fertő/Neusiedl, it should be emphasized that all required and state-of-the-art investigations and modelling should and must be carried out in advance before any irreversible measures are implemented. It is mandatory to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- The Federal State of Burgenland is endeavouring to take up and implement the recommendations of the Advisory Mission Report that further development projects that could potentially have a negative impact on the OUV of the World Heritage property should be assessed on the basis of the spatial and landscape attributes of the landscape and the OUV.