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# Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut (Austria) No 806bis

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## 1 Basic information

### State Party

Austria

### Name of property

Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape

### Location

Provinces of Upper Austria and Styria and Salzburg

### Inscription

1997

### Brief description

Human activity in the magnificent natural landscape of the Salzkammergut began in prehistoric times, with the salt deposits being exploited as early as the 2nd millennium BC. This resource formed the basis of the area's prosperity up to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a prosperity that is reflected in the fine architecture of the town of Hallstatt.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2024

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

The property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 under criteria (iii) and (iv). It is recognised as an outstanding example of a landscape of great beauty and scientific interest which also contains evidence of a long history of salt mining. The boundaries include the Lake Hallstatt, the town of Hallstatt, the Rudolfsturm on the wooded summit of the Humberkogel which was built to protect the salt-workings and later was used as the office of the Berghauptmann (Regional Inspector of Mines), as well as the Mine Administration Building. The Dachstein Mountains which rise nearly 3000 m.a.s.l., valleys, meadows, lakes, ponds and the Dachstein Plateau, as well as the glaciers and the moors in the Gosau-Halstatt region are part of this cultural landscape.

At the time of inscription, the map was drawn by hand using the Austrian Base Map scale 1:200,000. In the context of the Retrospective Inventory and Periodic Reporting Cycle I, this map was digitalized in 2007 on the Austrian Base Map scale 1:200,000. The World Heritage Committee adopted this digitalized map as the official map in 2008 (Decision 32 COM 8D).

In 2009, the Austrian Environmental Impact Assessment Act (UVP-G) was modified, taking into account World Heritage properties as special protected areas (*besonderes Schutzgebiet*). Any proposed development needs therefore to be located precisely as whether it is within or outside of a World Heritage property.

For this reason, it is necessary that the map of the World Heritage property follows the Austrian Cadastral Map based on legally binding property limits. Therefore, in 2017, the State Party commissioned the transfer of the existing map of the property to the cadastral map. During this process, a number of irregularities appeared, yet, the boundaries defined in the map in 2008 were followed closely, as some of these did not follow political borders but natural features such as height lines or mountain ridges.

In the context of developing a new management plan for the property starting in 2019, the map of 2017 was taken as a reference to revise the boundaries of the property and buffer zone.

### Modification

The State Party proposes a revision of the boundaries of the property and buffer zone in line with the revised map of the property based on the Austrian Cadastral Map. The modified boundaries were discussed with the responsible federal state authorities and agreed upon by the key stakeholders of the management plan drafting process, namely, the State Party, the Federal State Government of Upper Austria and the mayors of the municipalities responsible for parts of the property.

In the process, all boundaries have been shifted to the existing cadastral limits based on the current version of the Digital Cadastral Map of Austria. These boundaries follow the cadastral borders where possible, and in larger plots, delineations of land use or other as relevant, were used.

The digitalized version of 2007 had some inaccuracies in the boundaries of the buffer zone. As a consequence, the size of the property has increased from 28,446 ha to 28,637 ha, and the size of the buffer zone has decreased from 20,014 ha to 19,863 ha. The property and buffer zone count in the proposed modification with 48,500 ha, while previously, the total area covered 48,460 ha.

In addition, at the time of the nomination, the boundary of the property did not include the lake side area at the northern shore of the Lake Hallstatt. With the revised boundaries, this area – which contains attributes potentially contributing to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property – has been included. For example, parts of the Salzkammergut Railway line (1857-1877), the nature protected Seeau wetlands, the Seeagut Manor (1600), former seat of a director of the salt industry, the Steegwirt Inn (1551), and the Seeklause weir system (early 1500s) are now within the boundaries of the property.

A professional full-time site manager has been established in September 2023, which is now in charge of administrating the association jointly controlled by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Public Service and Sports, the Federal State Government of Upper Austria and the municipalities within the World Heritage property (four in Upper Austria and three in Styria). The site management will also be in charge of coordinating with other municipalities which are part of the buffer zone.

ICOMOS notes that in the process of revising the boundaries of both the property and buffer zone, some areas that were within the property are now part of the buffer zone, and some parts that were within the buffer zone are now not part of it. In its proposal, the State Party ensures that all attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are now contained within the property boundaries, as in some cases, this revision implied, including within the boundaries, some potential attributes that were instead located within the buffer zone in the previous map. In addition, ICOMOS observes that Environmental Impact Assessments are in place, considering World Heritage properties as specially protected areas.

Therefore, ICOMOS considers that the proposed adjustments of the boundaries of the property and buffer zone will enhance the management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

### **3 Recommendations**

#### **Recommendations with respect to inscription**

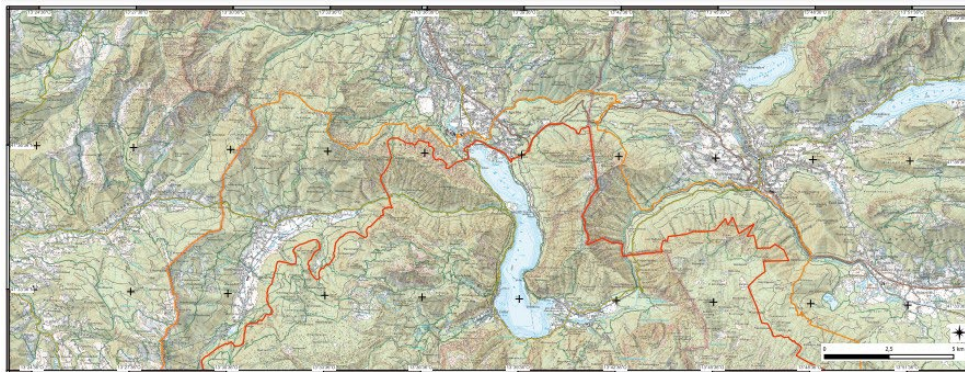
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape, Austria, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone for Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape, Austria, be **approved**.

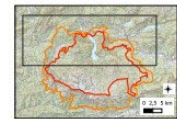
#### **Additional recommendations**

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*,
- b) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposals in the property, its buffer zone and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.



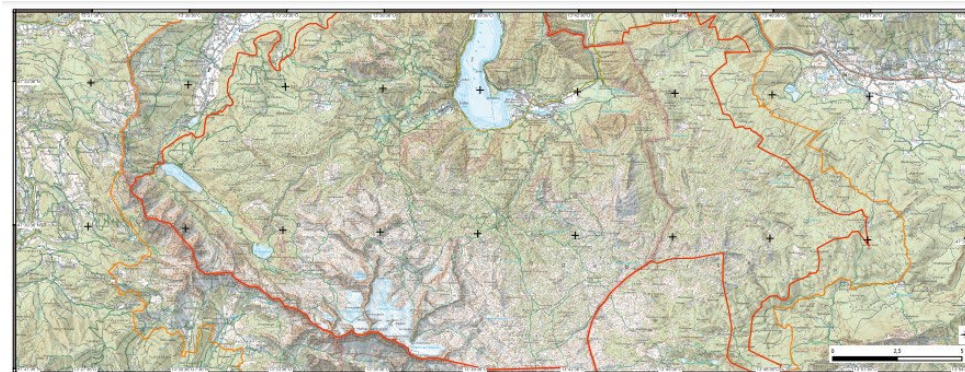
**WORLD HERITAGE**  
Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut  
Cultural Landscape (806)



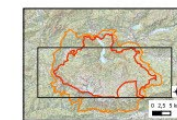
Property as modified  
Buffer zone as modified

Scale (range map): 1:50 000  
Coordinate system: EPSG:31259 MGRS / Austria GK MGRS

Basemap: Kartographisches Institut 1:50 000 - Relief  
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**WORLD HERITAGE**  
Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut  
Cultural Landscape (806)



Property as modified  
Buffer zone as modified

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**WORLD HERITAGE**  
Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut  
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Property as modified  
Buffer zone as modified

Scale (range map): 1:50 000  
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Maps showing the revised boundaries of the property and of the buffer zone (February 2024)