

# Bulgaria

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 - State Party

Bulgaria

### 1.2 - Date of ratification/accession/acceptance of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

07/03/1974

### 1.3 - Groups and institutions involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Report

Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage
National Commission for UNESCO
World Heritage site managers/coordinators
External experts

## 2. Synergies with other Conventions

### 2.1. Multilateral Environmental Agreements

**2.1.1 - According to the information available at the World Heritage Centre, in addition to the World Heritage Convention, your State is party to/not party to/in the process of adhering to the following agreements. Please check and amend as necessary.**

		Not Party to	Party to	Adhesion in Progress
2.1.1.1	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage		×	
2.1.1.2	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)		×	
2.1.1.3	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)		×	
2.1.1.4	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)		×	
2.1.1.5	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)		×	
2.1.1.6	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	×		
2.1.1.7	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)		×	

**2.1.2 - According to the information available at the World Heritage Centre, the following World Heritage property(ies) in your State Party is/are also designated (in whole or in part) as (a) Ramsar site(s) under the List of Wetlands of International Importance (The Ramsar List). Please check and amend as necessary.**

Srebarna Nature Reserve
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**2.1.3 - Does your State Party intend to designate any World Heritage property(ies) (in whole or in part) for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance in the next three years?**

No

**2.1.4 - Please indicate which World Heritage property(ies) your State Party intends to designate (in whole or in part) for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance in the next three years.**

N/A

**2.1.5 - Please list any other relevant global or regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) on natural heritage which have been joined by your State Party.**

Directives of the European Union such as the Habitats Directive or the Birds Directive /
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) /
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) /
The World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme /
Bern Convention Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats /
EUROPARC Federation /

### 2.2. UNESCO Culture Conventions

**2.2.1 - The table below indicates which of the UNESCO cultural Conventions your State is party to, not party to or in the process of adhering to. Please check and amend as necessary.**

		Not Party to	Party to	Adhesion in Progress
2.2.1.1	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage		×	
2.2.1.2	1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict		×	
2.2.1.3	Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict		×	

2.2.1.4	1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property		×	
2.2.1.5	2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage		×	
2.2.1.6	2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage		×	
2.2.1.7	2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions		×	

**2.2.2 - Please list any other relevant global or regional Conventions or agreements on cultural heritage to which your State Party is party to or in the process of adhering to.**

**2.2.3 - According to the information available at the World Heritage Centre the following World Heritage property(ies) located in your State Party have been included on the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.**

According to information available, no property in your State Party is currently listed.

**2.2.4 - Does your State Party intend to request the granting of Enhanced Protection for any of its World Heritage properties under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in the next three years?**

No

**2.2.5 - Please list any World Heritage properties for which your State Party intends to request the granting of Enhanced Protection.**

N/A

### 2.3. UNESCO Programmes

**2.3.1 - The table below indicates which of the selected UNESCO programmes your State Party participates in. Please check and amend as necessary.**

		No	Yes
2.3.1.1	Man and the Biosphere Programme		×
2.3.1.2	UNESCO Global Geoparks	×	

**2.3.2 - According to the information available at the World Heritage Centre, the following World Heritage property(ies) in your State Party is/are also designated (in whole or in part) as (a) Biosphere Reserve(s) under the intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere Programme.**

Pirin National Park, Srebarna Nature Reserve

#### Comment

Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe is also designated as a Biosphere Reserve under the intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere Programme. Pirin National Park is not designated as a Biosphere Reserve under the intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere Programme. As for Bajuvj Douпки - Djindritza Biosphere reserve located in Pirin National Park - it was also declared as biosphere reserve in 1977. Since it did not correspond to the current criteria of the MAB Programme in 2020 the site was withdrawn in compliance with the Exit strategy for biosphere reserves. Currently, Bajuvj Douпки - Djindritza nature reserve is not part of the World network of biosphere reserves but it proceeds to be a strict nature reserve according to the Bulgarian legislation.

**2.3.3 - Does your State Party intend to nominate any of its World Heritage properties (in whole or in part) as (a) Biosphere Reserve(s) under the intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere Programme?**

No

**2.3.4 - Please indicate which World Heritage property(ies), (or part(s) thereof), your State Party intends to nominate as (a) Biosphere Reserve(s) under the intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere Programme:**

N/A /

**2.3.5 - According to the information available at the World Heritage Centre, the following World Heritage property(ies) in your State Party are also designated (in whole or in part) as UNESCO Global Geopark(s)**

According to information available, no property in your State Party is currently listed.

**2.3.6 - Has your State Party applied for any of its World Heritage properties (or part(s) thereof) to be designated UNESCO Global Geopark(s)?**

No

**2.3.7 - Please indicate which World Heritage property(ies) (or part(s) thereof) is/are (a) UNESCO Global Geoparks applicant(s).**

N/A /

### 2.4. Cooperation and synergies between the Conventions and programmes your State is party to/is associated with/intends to join

**2.4.1 - Is there communication between the World Heritage Focal Point and the Focal Points of the Convention(s)/programme(s) listed below?**

		Not Applicable	No	Yes
2.4.1.1	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage			×
2.4.1.2	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)			×
2.4.1.3	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)			×
2.4.1.4	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)			×
2.4.1.5	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)			×
2.4.1.6	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	×		

2.4.1.7	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)			×
2.4.1.8	1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict			×
2.4.1.9	Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict			×
2.4.1.10	1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property			×
2.4.1.11	2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage			×
2.4.1.12	2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage			×
2.4.1.13	2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions			×
2.4.1.14	Man and the Biosphere Programme			×
2.4.1.15	Global Geoparks			×

**2.4.2 - Please comment, if applicable, on the communication between the World Heritage Focal Point and the Focal Points of the other Convention(s)/programme(s):**

The WH focal points and focal point for other conventions/treaties for natural heritage/conservation are part of the same directorate in the Ministry of environment and water. WH focal point and other cultural conventions focal points depend on the Ministry of Culture. Focal points are in constant contact and work in close collaboration in case of common engagements and tasks to be fulfilled, arising from decisions and resolutions adopted by the governing bodies of the respective conventions.

**2.4.3 - Are World Heritage Focal Points involved in the revision and implementation of national natural heritage strategies, policies and action plans, beyond specific issues related to World Heritage?**

Yes

**2.4.4 - Are World Heritage Focal Points involved in the revision and implementation of national cultural heritage strategies, policies and action plans, beyond specific issues related to World Heritage?**

Yes

**2.5. UNESCO Recommendations**

**2.5.1 - Is your State Party using the provisions of the 1972 Recommendation and the 2011 Recommendation to set policies or strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage?**

		Yes	No
2.5.1.1	1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at the National level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage	×	
2.5.1.2	2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape	×	

**2.5.2 - Please describe how effectively each of the Recommendations is used:**

The Bulgarian specialized legislation on protected areas and natural world heritage properties is in line with the 1972 Recommendation and ensures their adequate protection, conservation and management. According to the Constitution of Republic of Bulgaria and Protected areas Act the 3 natural world heritage properties are exclusively state property and the Ministry of environment and water and its competent regional administrations provide their management and conservation.

**3. Tentative List**

**3.1 - In the process of preparing your Tentative List, did you use any of the following tools to make a preliminary assessment of the potential Outstanding Universal Value?**

ICOMOS thematic studies
IUCN thematic studies
Filling the gaps – an Action Plan for the future by ICOMOS
The World Heritage List: Future priorities for a credible and complete list of natural and mixed sites by IUCN
Meetings to harmonize Tentative Lists within your region
UNESCO's Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List
Other global comparative analyses
World Heritage Resource Manual 'Preparing World Heritage Nominations'

**3.2 - Have you used the Upstream Process in the revision of your Tentative List?**

No

If you selected 'Yes', please comment on which forms of upstream guidance you have used and on their effectiveness of this guidance.

**3.3 - Do you intend to use the Upstream Process during the next revision of your Tentative List?**

Yes

**3.4 - Do any of the sites registered on your Tentative List have the potential to generate dialogue and cooperation among States Parties and different communities?**

Yes, among States Parties and communities

**3.5 - Please name the site(s) considered to have this potential**

**3.6 - Please rate the level of involvement of the following (if applicable) in the preparation of the Tentative List**

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional/provincial/state government(s)	Fair
Local government(s)	Fair

Other government departments	Fair
UNESCO National Commission	Good
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Fair
Local communities/residents	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Other specific groups (please specify below)	Not applicable
Landowners	Poor
Local industries/tourism and other stakeholders	Fair
Non-Governmental Organization(s)	Not applicable
Consultants/experts	Good
Site manager(s)/coordinator(s)	Good
If 'Other specific groups' applies, please specify	

**3.7 - Has a gender balanced contribution and participation been considered and implemented in the process of preparing the Tentative List?**

Gender balance **has been given limited consideration** and implementation in the process.

**3.8 - Do any sites on your Tentative List already benefit from other international designations either under other UNESCO Conventions/Programmes or under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands?**

Not applicable

If you selected 'Yes', please list the site(s), identify the other designation(s)/programme(s) from which it/they benefit(s), and state the additional benefits you expect to gain from inscription on the World Heritage List.

**3.9 - Please provide any additional comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to the Tentative List (Questions 3.1 to 3.8)**

**4. Nominations**

**4.1 - Please rate the level of involvement of the following entities in the preparation of the most recent nomination dossiers**

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional/provincial/state government(s)	Good
Local government(s)	Good
Other government departments	Good
UNESCO National Commission	Good
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Fair
Local communities/residents	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Other specific groups (please specify below)	Not applicable
Landowners	Not applicable
Local industries/tourist sector and commercial stakeholders	Not applicable
Non-Governmental Organization(s)	Not applicable
Consultants/experts	Good
Site manager(s)/coordinator(s)	Good
If 'Other specific groups' applies, please specify	

**4.2 - Has a gender balanced contribution and participation been considered and implemented in the preparation of the most recent nomination dossiers?**

Yes

**4.3 - Please rate the perceived benefits in your country of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List**

Promoted environmental sustainability, valuing places which are essential for human well-being	High
Enhanced inclusive social development, with full inclusion and equity for all stakeholders	Some
Strengthened protection and conservation of heritage (legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional)	High
Enhanced conservation practices	Some
Enhanced wider community appreciation and participation in heritage processes	Some
Improved presentation of sites	High
Enhanced honour/prestige	High
Increased funding	Some
Additional tool for lobbying/political influence	Some

Fostered peace and security, including promotion of partnerships and conservation	Some
Increased number of tourists and visitors	High
Promoted inclusive economic development, including decent income and employment for communities	High
Other(s)	Not applicable
If 'Other' applies, please specify	

**4.4 - Please rate the extent to which the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List will contribute to achieving the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Protecting biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services and benefits	High
Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change	Some
Contributing to inclusion and equity	Some
Enhancing quality of life and well-being	Some
Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights	Some
Respecting, consulting and involving indigenous peoples and local communities	Some
Achieving gender equality	Some
Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods	Some
Promoting economic investment and quality tourism	High
Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship	Some
Ensuring conflict prevention	Some
Protecting heritage during conflict	Some
Promoting conflict resolution	High
Contributing to post-conflict recovery	Not applicable
Other(s)	Not applicable
If 'Other' applies, please specify	

**4.5 - Please provide any additional comments and/or recommendations related to the nomination of properties (questions 4.1 to 4.4).**

## 5. General Policy Development

### 5.1. Principal pieces of national cultural and/or natural heritage legislation

#### 5.1.1 - Principal pieces of national legislation for the protection, conservation and presentation of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage

##### Comment

Constitution of Republic of Bulgaria, Cultural Heritage Law (Official Gazette No.19 of 2009) and subdelegated legislation, Environmental Protection Act, Protected areas Act, Biodiversity conservation Act, Regulations for preparation of management plans for protected areas and Natura 2000 sites.

### 5.2. Comment on principal pieces of legislation

#### 5.2.1 - Please comment, especially if prefilled legislation is no longer in force

NA

### 5.3. Other principal pieces of legislation

**5.3.1 - If there are principal pieces of legislation for the protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage not listed in the previous question, please add them here.**

Water management Act / both / national /
Waste Management Act / both / national /
Spacial planning Act / both / national /
Hunting and game Protection Act / natural / national /
Regulation for Appropriate assesment of plans programs and projects for compatibility with the objectives of Natura 2000 / natural / national /
Regulation for EIA for investment proposals / both / national /
Act on the Black sea coast spatial development / cultural / national /
Tourism act / both / national /
Medicinal plants Act / natural / national /
Regulation for assignment of activities in protected areas which are exclusively state property / natural / national /
Genetically modified organisms Act / natural / national /

#### 5.4. Contribution of legislation and/or regulations at other levels to the identification, conservation and protection of the cultural and/or natural heritage

##### 5.4.1 - Please describe briefly how legislation and/or regulations at other levels contribute to the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage.

Cultural Heritage Law (Official Gazette No.19 of 2009) and subdelegated legislation. This law regulates the research, studying, protection and promotion of the immovable cultural heritage in Bulgaria, and the development of Conservation and Management plans for its inscribed World Heritage List of immovable cultural properties. The Environmental protection Act, Protected Areas Act, Biodiversity Act and respective regulations determine identification, management, control and the responsible institutions for the protected areas and respectively World Heritage properties. The Bulgarian legislation ensures the conservation and protection of natural heritage at all levels by application of Environmental impact assessment, Strategic environmental impact assessment and Appropriate assessment for compatibility with Natura2000.

#### 5.5. Adequacy of the legal framework for the identification of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage

##### 5.5.1 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulations) adequate for the identification of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage?

	Culture	Nature
There is <b>no legal framework</b> for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
The legal framework is <b>inadequate</b> for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
The legal framework is <b>partially adequate</b> for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
The legal framework is <b>adequate</b> for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage.	×	×

#### 5.6. Adequacy of the legal framework for the conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage

##### 5.6.1 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulations) adequate for the conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage?

	Culture	Nature
There is <b>no legal framework</b> for the conservation and protection of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
The legal framework is <b>inadequate</b> for the conservation and protection of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
The legal framework is <b>partially adequate</b> for the conservation and protection of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
The legal framework is <b>adequate</b> for the conservation and protection of cultural and/or natural heritage.	×	×

#### 5.7. Enforcement of the legal framework

##### 5.7.1 - Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulations) for the conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage be enforced?

		There is no legal framework.	There is no effective capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework.	Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened.	Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework are adequate.
5.7.1.1	Culture			×	
5.7.1.2	Nature			×	

#### 5.8. Comments on the enforcement of the legal framework

##### 5.8.1 - Please comment on particular problems of enforcement

Lack of sufficient powers and authorities in the staff working at the world heritage properties including the security guards working at the field, as they do not have the right to ask violators for identification documents and thus identify them, as well as the staff of the WHP does not have the right to detain violators until the arrival of law enforcement officers. There is also a need to impose stricter sanctions provided for in the special legislation for violators of the regimes in the world heritage sites, which are also protected areas according to Bulgarian legislation. There is lack of sufficient financial resources which does not allow to be ensured the necessary physical protection (and hired enough guards at the field) at the levels that the legislation allows and prescribes for the World Heritage sites. Lack of sufficient financial resources which to ensure the implementation of all measures provided for in the management plans of the WHP and in the operational plans of the administrations implementing the management of the sites.

#### 5.9. Policies giving cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities

##### 5.9.1 - How effectively do the State Party's policies give cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities?

	Culture	Nature
There are <b>no specific policies</b> to give heritage a function in the life of communities.		
There are <b>no specific policies</b> to give heritage a function in the life of communities <b>but this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.</b>		
There <b>are specific policies</b> to give heritage a function in the life of communities <b>but there are some deficiencies</b> in their implementation.	×	×
There <b>are specific policies</b> to give heritage a function in the life of communities that <b>are effectively implemented.</b>		

#### 5.10. Examples of specific policies giving heritage a function in the life of communities

##### 5.10.1 - Please provide examples of specific policies that give heritage a function in the life of communities

All stakeholders, including local communities, are sufficiently informed and involved in the decision-making process related to World Heritage sites. For example, during the development of the management plans for the properties, mandatory public discussions were held according to the special legislation, in which representatives of the interested institutions and communities participated. Besides, for the two WH Properties which are also national parks - Pirin and Central Balkan, Advisory councils have been established with the participation of local communities and users of the territories. During the meetings of the councils the Directorates of the national parks present information about their activities and plans and accordingly ask for the opinion of the stakeholders.

#### 5.11. Integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies

**5.11.1 - How effectively does your State Party integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies?**

Protecting biological and cultural diversity and providing ecosystem services and benefits.	Some
Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change.	Some
Contributing to inclusion and equality.	Limited
Enhancing the quality of life and well-being.	Limited
Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights.	Limited
Respecting, consulting and involving indigenous peoples and local communities.	Limited
Achieving gender equality.	Limited
Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods.	Limited
Promoting economic investment and quality tourism.	Limited
Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship.	Limited
Ensuring conflict prevention.	Not applicable
Protecting heritage during conflict.	Not applicable
Promoting conflict resolution.	Not applicable
Contributing to post-conflict recovery.	Not applicable
Other (please specify).	Not applicable
If 'Other' applies, please specify	

**5.12. UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), adopted in 2011**

**5.12.1 - In relation to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), adopted in 2011, please indicate which of the following steps your State Party has taken (you can check multiple boxes):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Adapt the application of the Recommendation and its approach to the States Party's specific context
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage the HUL approach across its territory

**5.13. Integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning programmes**

**5.13.1 - How effectively does the State Party integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning programmes?**

There are policies but there are some deficiencies in their implementation.

**5.14. Use of policies and strategies agreed by the World Heritage Committee or the World Heritage General Assembly to set national policies or strategies for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage**

**5.14.1 - Is your State Party using policies and strategies agreed by the World Heritage Committee or the World Heritage General Assembly to set national policies or strategies for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage?**

	UNESCO World Heritage Policy or Strategy	No	Yes
5.14.1.1	Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.14.1.2	Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.14.1.3	World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.14.1.4	World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**5.14.2 - Is the implementation of multilateral agreements, programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies coordinated and integrated into the development of national policies for the conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage?**

There is adequate coordination and integration of the implementation of these multilateral agreements, Programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies into national policies.

**5.15. Specific national policies developed using World Heritage policies and strategies**

**5.15.1 - Please give details of specific national policies developed using World Heritage policies and strategies**

**5.16. Comments on General Policy Development (Questions 5.1 to 5.15)**

**5.16.1 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to General Policy Development (Questions 5.1 to 5.15)**

The legislation in force requires active involvement of the local communities in the processes related to the management and protection of the Properties. The local communities are encouraged to participate in the public hearings organized within the procedures for development of management plans, environmental and cultural impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment for plans, programs and investment proposals to be carried out

**6. Inventories/Lists/Registers of Cultural and Natural Heritage**

**6.1 - If the State Party has already established inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage, at which level(s) are they compiled, and what is their current status?**

	Cultural heritage	Natural heritage
National/federal	Process completed or continuously updated	Process completed or continuously updated

Regional/provincial/state	Process completed or continuously updated	Process completed or continuously updated
Local	Process completed or continuously updated	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable	Not applicable

## 6.2 - Are inventories/lists/registers adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage of your State Party?

	Culture	Nature
No inventories/lists/registers of heritage have been established.		
Inventories/lists/registers are <b>inadequate</b> to capture the diversity of heritage.		
Inventories/lists/registers <b>capture some</b> of the diversity of heritage.		×
Inventories/lists/registers capture the <b>full</b> diversity of heritage.	×	

## 6.3 - Are inventories/lists/registers used to protect the identified cultural and natural heritage?

	Culture	Nature
No inventories/lists/registers of heritage have been established.		
Inventories/lists/registers <b>are not actively used</b> for the protection of heritage.		
Inventories/lists/registers <b>are sometimes used</b> for the protection of heritage.		
Inventories/lists/registers <b>are frequently used</b> for the protection of heritage.	×	×

## 6.4 - In addition to heritage practitioners and academic institutions, does the State Party involve communities and indigenous peoples in the identification of natural and cultural heritage for inclusion in inventories/lists/registers?

	Culture	Nature
The State Party <b>does not involve</b> communities and indigenous peoples in the identification of natural and/or cultural heritage for inclusion in their inventories/lists/registers.		
The State Party <b>plans to involve</b> communities and indigenous peoples in the identification sites of natural and/or cultural heritage for inclusion in their inventories/lists/registers in the future.		
The State Party <b>sometimes involves</b> communities and indigenous peoples in the identification sites of natural and/or cultural heritage for inclusion in their inventories/lists/registers.	×	×
The State Party <b>regularly involves</b> communities and indigenous peoples in the identification sites of natural and/or cultural heritage for inclusion in their inventories/lists/registers.		

## 6.5 - Are inventories/lists/registers used for the identification of sites for the Tentative List?

	Culture	Nature	Mixed
No inventories/lists/registers of heritage have been established.			
Inventories/lists/registers are <b>not actively used</b> for the identification of sites for inclusion on the Tentative List.			
Inventories/lists/registers are <b>sometimes used</b> for the identification of sites for inclusion on the Tentative List.		×	
Inventories/lists/registers are <b>frequently used</b> for the identification of sites for inclusion on the Tentative List.	×		

## 6.6 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage (questions 6.1 to 6.5)

## 7. Status of Services for the Identification, Protection, Conservation and Presentation of Natural and Cultural Heritage

### 7.1 - How effectively do the principal agencies/institutions responsible for cultural and/or natural heritage cooperate in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of this heritage?

There is **effective cooperation** between principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage.

### 7.2 - How effectively do other government agencies (e.g. those responsible for tourism, defence, public works, fishery, etc.) cooperate in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage?

All principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage are **effectively cooperating** with other government agencies.

### 7.3 - How effectively do different levels of government cooperate in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage?

	Culture	Nature
There is <b>no cooperation</b> between different levels of government for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
There is <b>limited cooperation</b> between different levels of government for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
In general, <b>cooperation exists</b> between different levels of government for identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage <b>but there are still deficiencies</b> .		
Different levels of government <b>cooperate effectively</b> for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage.	×	×

### 7.4 - How effectively do different levels of government cooperate with all segments of civil society in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage?

	Culture	Nature
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There is <b>no cooperation</b> between different levels of government and all segments of civil society in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
There is <b>limited cooperation</b> between different levels of government and all segments of civil society in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
There is <b>some cooperation</b> between different levels of government and all segments of civil society in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage <b>but there are still deficiencies.</b>		
Different levels of government <b>cooperate effectively</b> with all segments of civil society, in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage.	×	×

## 8. Financial Status and Human Resources

### 8.1 - Please assess the relative importance of the following sources of funding for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage in your country.

National government funds	Major source of funding for running costs/maintenance
Other levels of government (provincial, state, local)	Major source of funding for running costs/maintenance
International assistance from the World Heritage Fund	Minor source of project funding
Funds from other international conventions/programmes	Major source of project funding
International multilateral funding (e.g. World Bank, IDB, European Union, etc.)	Major source of funding for running costs/maintenance
International bilateral funding (e.g. AFD, GIZ, DGCS, GEF, etc.)	Minor source of project funding
Non-Governmental Organizations (international and/or national)	No funding/Not applicable
Private sector funds	Minor source of project funding
Other	No funding/Not applicable
If 'Other' applies, please specify	

### 8.2 - Does the State Party have policies to allocate site revenues for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage?

		No	Yes
8.2.1	Culture		×
8.2.2	Nature		×

### 8.3 - Do you consider that the current budget is sufficient to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively?

	Culture	Nature
The available budget is <b>inadequate</b> for basic conservation, protection and presentation and is a serious constraint on the capacity to conserve and protect cultural and natural heritage.		
The available budget is <b>acceptable</b> but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.	×	×
The available budget is <b>adequate</b> to meet the current conservation, protection and presentation needs.		

### 8.4 - Please indicate the percentage of total annual public expenditure that is spent on the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage

	Category	percentage %
8.4.1	Cultural	N/A
8.4.2	Natural	0,09

### 8.5 - Please estimate the percentage of the total annual public expenditure (as stated in 8.4) that is spent on cultural and natural heritage at each governmental level

Percentage		Cultural	Natural
8.5.1	National/Federal	60 %	100 %
8.5.2	Regional/Provincial	20 %	0 %
8.5.3	Local	20 %	0 %
		Total 100 %	Total 100 %

### 8.6 - Are available human resources adequate to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively?

Human resources	Culture	Nature
Human resources are <b>inadequate</b> for conservation, protection and presentation needs of cultural and/or natural heritage.		
A range of human resources exist, to conserve, protect and present cultural and/or natural heritage, but these are <b>below optimum.</b>	×	×
Human resources are <b>adequate</b> to meet the current needs of cultural and/or natural heritage conservation, protection and presentation.		

## 8.7 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to financial and human resources (Questions 8.1 to 8.6)

The specified funds (0.09%) are those provided by the state budget to the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) and its regional structures, which carry out the protection and management of natural sites which are protected areas and protected sites of Natura 2000, including the three natural world heritage properties. The regional structures of the MoEW are 3 Directorates of National Parks and 16 regional inspectorates for environment and water, which are secondary managers of budget funds. We do not have information about the funds allocated by regional administrations and municipalities for the purpose of protecting and managing natural sites. We also do not have information on secured funding for projects of non-governmental organizations aimed at protection of natural sites. Therefore, we are not pointing information about the last. Besides the State budget there are funds ensured by Operational Program Environment (European Regional fund) - Conservation of Biodiversity. The administrations of the natural properties are beneficiaries to this Program and are currently implementing big projects related to the Properties with funding from this source. There is a State Enterprise for management of environmental activities under the Ministry of environment and waters, which provides funding for environmental activities, management and restoration activities in Protected areas and WH properties, including public awareness campaigns.

## 9. Capacity Development

### 9.1 - Please prioritise the capacity building needs in the following fields identified in your country for the conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage.

	Culture	Nature
National/federal	High priority	High priority
Statutory processes: Tentative Lists	High priority	High priority
Statutory processes: Nominations	High priority	High priority
Statutory processes: Reporting and monitoring	High priority	High priority
Statutory processes: International assistance	High priority	High priority
Conservation and management of heritage sites	High priority	High priority
Technical and scientific issues	High priority	High priority
Traditional conservation processes	High priority	High priority
Sustainable resource utilisation and management	High priority	High priority
Interpretation/communication of World Heritage properties	High priority	High priority
Risk preparedness and disaster risk management	High priority	High priority
Impact assessment tools (environmental, heritage and social)	High priority	Low priority
Sustainable tourism use and management	High priority	Medium priority
Management effectiveness assessment	High priority	High priority
Management approaches and methodologies (including HUL)	High priority	Not applicable
Awareness raising and outreach	Medium priority	Medium priority
Governance: legislative, institutional and financial frameworks and mechanisms	Medium priority	Low priority
Sustainable development	High priority	Medium priority
Protection and integration of biological and cultural diversity in management systems	High priority	Medium priority
Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change: adaptation and mitigation	High priority	High priority
Adoption of rights-based approaches to heritage management	High priority	High priority
Development of inclusive, equitable and effective management systems: enhancing quality of life and well-being through heritage	Medium priority	Low priority
Inclusive social development in World Heritage management systems	Medium priority	Low priority
Gender balance in management systems	Medium priority	Medium priority
Inclusive economic development in World Heritage management systems	Medium priority	Low priority
World Heritage as an enabler and a driver of peace and security	Medium priority	Low priority

### 9.2 - Please rate the priority for training target audiences for each of the specific topics/themes/capacity building needs identified below for conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage.

	Administrators and government bodies at all levels	Communities, indigenous peoples, landowners, local businesses, other social groups etc.	Universities, NGOs etc.	Heritage practitioners
Implementation of the <i>Convention</i>	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Statutory processes: Tentative Lists process	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Low priority
Statutory processes: Nomination process	Medium priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Low priority
Statutory processes: Reporting and monitoring process	High priority	Not applicable	No priority	Medium priority
Statutory processes: International assistance, etc.	Medium priority	Not applicable	Not applicable	Medium priority
Conservation and management of heritage sites	High priority	Low priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Technical and Scientific issues	Low priority	Not applicable	No priority	Low priority

Traditional conservation processes	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Sustainable resource utilisation and management	Medium priority	Low priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Interpretation/communication of World Heritage properties	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Risk preparedness and disaster risk management	High priority	Low priority	Low priority	High priority
Impact assessment tools (environmental, heritage and social)	Low priority	No priority	Low priority	Low priority
Sustainable tourism use and management	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Management effectiveness assessment	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Management approaches and methodologies (including HUL)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Awareness raising and outreach	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Governance: legislative, institutional and financial frameworks and mechanisms	Low priority	No priority	Low priority	Low priority
Sustainable development	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Building environmental and social resilience	Medium priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Integration of eco-social diversity in management systems	Medium priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Adoption of rights-based approaches to heritage management	Low priority	Low priority	Low priority	Low priority
Development of inclusive, equitable and effective management systems	Medium priority	No priority	Low priority	Medium priority
Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change	High priority	Low priority	Low priority	High priority

### 9.3 - Please indicate how the State Party is using the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011).

		No	Yes
9.3.1	The State Party is using the Capacity Building Strategy <b>for the implementation of capacity building at the national level.</b>	✗	
9.3.2	The State Party is using the Capacity Building Strategy <b>for the implementation of capacity building at the regional/sub-regional level.</b>	✗	
9.3.3	The State Party is using the Capacity Building Strategy to <b>identify capacity building priorities.</b>	✗	
9.3.4	The State Party is using the Capacity Building Strategy <b>by fundraising to support capacity building programmes.</b>	✗	
9.3.5	The State Party is using the Capacity Building Strategy <b>by raising awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage.</b>	✗	

### 9.4 - Does the State Party have a national training/educational strategy to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management?

There is **no national strategy** for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management but this is **being done on an ad hoc basis.**

### 9.5 - Comments: Please provide any additional comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to Capacity Development (Questions 9.1 to 9.4).

There are national strategies in the fields of Environment and Culture, parts of which cover the capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation.

## 10. Policy and Resourcing of World Heritage Properties

### 10.1 - If there are principal pieces of legislation specific to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage not listed in 5.1 (which focuses on policy general to all heritage), please list them here.

### 10.2 - Please describe briefly how legislation and/or regulations at other levels contribute to the identification, conservation and protection of the State's Party cultural and natural heritage. Please provide web links for the legislation listed above.

The national legislation at other levels is aligned with the special legislation and the status of natural world heritage properties, which are exclusive state property with very strict regimes of protection and use. For example, the Spatial Planning Act takes into account the presence of world heritage properties, complies with their regimes and Management Plans and does not allow actions that have not been agreed with the competent authorities and that have not been subject to the relevant assessments required by the special environmental legislation. For example, investment intentions, plans, programs and projects cannot be implemented without being subjected to relevant impact assessments which to ensure that they will not have a negative impact on the properties, the species and habitats that are protected within them, as well as on other components of the environment.

### 10.3 - Are the services provided by agencies/institutions adequate for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage properties in your country?

There is **adequate capacity** within services to protect, conserve, present and manage World Heritage properties.

### 10.4 - How does the State Party encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation/tourism sustainably?

By providing financial resources and incentives for sustainable tourism related activities
By developing policies and/or requiring sustainable tourism strategies to be developed
By providing capacity building for site managers
By facilitating network cooperation and stakeholder engagement through the development of governance structures or other mechanisms for cooperation

**10.5 - Please indicate here any additional information or clarify how the State Party supports sustainable tourism planning and management at a property level.**

According to the special legislation, the development of tourism in the world heritage properties is mainly aimed at the development of mountain hiking, cognitive and cultural tourism. In the Management Plans for the specific properties is developed a framework for the development of tourism, which is in accordance with the regimes of the respective territory and guarantees its long-term preservation. For Srebarna WH Property which is Managed reserve according to the national legislation only visits with scientific purpose and related to management of the Property are allowed.

**10.6 - Does the State Party require the use of impact assessments for programmes (e.g. strategic environmental assessments) or development projects (e.g. environmental impact assessments, heritage impact assessments) that may have an impact on the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the wider setting?**

There is a **regulatory framework** that requires the use of impact assessments for programmes or development projects and it **is effectively implemented**.

**10.7 - Please list the different assessment methods used. Please provide weblinks to the guidance for the assessment methods.**

The Bulgarian legislation ensures the conservation and protection of natural heritage at all levels by application of Environmental impact assessment, Strategic environmental impact assessment and Appropriate assessment for compatibility with Natura2000. The listed assessments are carried out in compliance with specific rules and conditions, listed in the ordinances, which can be found at the following links: Ordinance for the conditions and the order for implementing environmental impact assessment <https://www.moew.government.bg/en/ordinance-for-the-conditions-and-the-order-for-implementing-environmental-impact-assessment/>, Ordinance for the conditions and the order for implementing Ecological Assessment of Plans and Programmes <https://www.moew.government.bg/en/ordinance-for-the-conditions-and-the-order-for-implementing-ecological-assessment-of-plans-and-programmes/>, Ordinance on the conditions and the order for implementing out an appropriate assessment of plans, programs, projects and investment proposals with the subject and objectives of the protection of protected areas [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Legislation/Naredbi/NAREDBA\\_za\\_usloviqta\\_i\\_reda\\_za\\_izvarshvane\\_na\\_ocenka\\_za\\_savmestimostta\\_na\\_planove\\_programi\\_proekti.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Legislation/Naredbi/NAREDBA_za_usloviqta_i_reda_za_izvarshvane_na_ocenka_za_savmestimostta_na_planove_programi_proekti.pdf) In addition, the European Commission has developed guidelines for the application of the described assessments, which can be found at the following links: [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/EIA\\_guidance\\_EIA\\_report\\_final-34bbde434b15c31be5fcd8437aaaf259.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/EIA_guidance_EIA_report_final-34bbde434b15c31be5fcd8437aaaf259.pdf) [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/EIA\\_guidance\\_Scoping\\_final-275ecbabb1495d3dc4f60d79e4b4cf932.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/EIA_guidance_Scoping_final-275ecbabb1495d3dc4f60d79e4b4cf932.pdf) [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/EIA\\_guidance\\_Screening\\_final812326470b9a4a1371a0d6f6d32daa0896b48df0b982ef9f4cd888e01d868749.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/EIA_guidance_Screening_final812326470b9a4a1371a0d6f6d32daa0896b48df0b982ef9f4cd888e01d868749.pdf) [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Industry/EIA/2015/Ukazania2015/EIA\\_Guidance\\_2015-en.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Industry/EIA/2015/Ukazania2015/EIA_Guidance_2015-en.pdf) <https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/prevantivna-dejnost/ovos/ukazaniya-po-prilaganeto-rukovodstva/> [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/030923\\_sea\\_guidanceee3cdd711d8de1afdf46ef8cd672a3d71.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/articles/attachments/030923_sea_guidanceee3cdd711d8de1afdf46ef8cd672a3d71.pdf) <https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/rukovodstvo-za-integrirane-na-klimatichnite-izmeneniya-i-bioraznoobrazieto-v-strategicheskata-ekologichna-ocenka-evropejska-komisiya-2013-g/> <https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/praktichsko-rukovodstvo-za-obuchenie-po-direktivite-za-strategicheskata-ekologichna-ocenka-i-ovos-izgotveno-ot-jaspers-2013-g/> [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni\\_naredbi\\_guidance/natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni_naredbi_guidance/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf) [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni\\_naredbi\\_guidance/guidance2007.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni_naredbi_guidance/guidance2007.pdf) [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni\\_naredbi\\_guidance/art6\\_en\\_2000.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni_naredbi_guidance/art6_en_2000.pdf) [https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni\\_naredbi\\_guidance/adaptation\\_fragmentation\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/Zakoni_naredbi_guidance/adaptation_fragmentation_guidelines.pdf) [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm)

**10.8 - Does the State Party have a national capacity building strategy for World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management?**

There is **no national capacity building strategy** in relation to World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management **but capacity building is being done on an ad hoc basis**

**10.9 - Does the State Party have the institutional capacity to conduct research specifically for World Heritage issues?**

There is **capacity** at the institutional level to conduct research specifically for World Heritage issues **but it could be improved**.

**10.10 - Has the State Party helped to establish national, public and private foundations or associations for raising funds and receiving donations for the protection of World Heritage?**

No

**10.11 - Please add any additional comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to World Heritage policies and resources**

**11. International Cooperation**

**11.1 - Has the State Party promoted international cooperation and the establishment of cooperation mechanisms for heritage since the last Periodic Report? If so, please indicate the type of cooperation that best describes your activities.**

Participation in other UN programmes, including sustainable development programmes and human rights and gender equality programmes
Bilateral and multilateral agreements
Financial support
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars
Distribution of material/information

**11.2 - Do you have World Heritage properties that have been twinned with others at a national or international level?**

Yes

**11.3 - Please add any additional comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to International Cooperation (Questions 11.1 to 11.2). If you have twinned World Heritage properties, please list them along with their twins.**

In 2017 Central Balkan National park became part of a serial World Heritage Property „Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe“ including 94 component parts in 18 countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine). The management structure of the serial World heritage property was established with the Nomination dossier for the extension of the property in 2017. To enable a cooperation process between the different component parts within a country and between the 18 countries involved, appropriate management structures was established at the national level (national steering groups) as well as at the international level (Joint Management Committee). Besides the nomination a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed between the responsible institutions of all state parties concerning the Cooperation on the Protection and Management of the Joint World Heritage Property. By signing the Declaration the state parties expressed their intention of mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the Joint World Heritage Property. The declaration indicated the areas of cooperation between the partners. With the Declaration the Parties decided to establish the Integrated Management System as included in the nomination dossier for the Joint World Heritage Property. In order to coordinate the overall management of the property the Parties decided to establish the Joint Management Committee. The management system also includes: Coordinator and coordination of the national management. The Declaration determines the tasks of the Joint Management Committee and the Members of the Joint Management Committee, the tasks of the coordinator and the coordination of the national management, as well as the meetings of the Joint Management Committee - as far as their frequency and the way of taking of decisions are concerned, etc. According to the Declaration the Joint Management Committee shall adopt Rules of Procedure for the management of the JMC meetings.

## 12. Education, Information and Awareness Building

### 12.1 - Does the State Party have a strategy to raise awareness among communities and different stakeholders about conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage?

There are **no strategies** to raise awareness about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage but this is **being done on an ad hoc basis**.

### 12.2 - Please rate the level of general awareness of the following groups about World Heritage in your country

Communities living in/around heritage sites	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Youth	Fair
General public	Fair
Decision makers and public officials	Good
Private sector	Fair
Tourism industry	Good
Other specific groups	Not applicable
If you selected 'Other specific groups', please describe	

### 12.3 - Does the State Party have heritage education programmes for children and/or youth, that contribute to improving understanding of heritage, promoting diversity and fostering intercultural dialogue?

There are **heritage education programmes** to improve understanding of cultural and natural heritage, promote diversity, and foster intercultural dialogue that are **effectively implemented**.

### 12.4 - Please rate the level of frequency of the following activities to improve understanding of cultural and natural heritage, promote diversity and foster intercultural dialogue among children and/or youth

Teacher training courses on the use of the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit	Low
Courses/activities for students within school programmes	Medium
Youth forums	Medium
Skills-training courses for students	Low
Organized school visits to World Heritage properties/cultural and natural sites	High
Activities linked to heritage within the framework of UNESCO Clubs/Associations	Medium
Other	Not applicable
If you selected 'Other', please specify	

### 12.5 - Does the State Party participate in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands programme?

The State Party **does not participate** in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands programme **but intends to do so**.

### 12.6 - Please add any additional comments, description of best practices in World Heritage Education, conclusions and/or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building (Questions 12.3 to 12.5)

The three administrations in charge of the natural properties work actively by organizing diverse activities in the field of education, information and awareness building following their annual programs. As examples of such initiatives, could be pointed: participation in international environmental forums, visits of students from local and regional schools to visitor and information centers, visits to the WHP and conducting of open air classrooms, conducting of training for teachers on the principles of the World Heritage Convention, working with students from eco clubs under the schools in the respective regions, organizing of competitions, exhibitions, contests for drawings, logos, etc. with focus on World heritage. In Central Balkan National Park Directorate periodically are organized information meetings with teachers from the municipalities around the national park at which are discussed opportunities for partnerships and joint initiatives. The students are involved in discussions about the importance of the national park and its distinctions with an emphasis on the serial UNESCO World Heritage Site - "The Old and Primary Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe". Only for the 50 anniversary of the Convention in 2022 the Regional inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Russe organized - Photo contest "My family adventure in Srebarna - UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site and Biosphere Park" jointly with Silistra Municipality and Natural History Museum - Srebarna village; Exhibition about UNESCO sites in the city of Ruse; An exhibition of photographs about the Bulgarian sites of UNESCO's cultural and natural heritage during the Round Table on Wetland Management in the town of Silistra. The Ministry of environment and water (MOEW) organized small exhibition on this occasion. Specific information regarding the Convention and its 50 anniversary was uploaded on the webpages of the MOEW and the 3 regional departments responsible for natural WHP.

## 13. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### 13.1. State Party's implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Synergies with other relevant Conventions, Recommendations and Programmes
Identification of heritage
National inventories
Tentative List
Effectiveness of legal framework
Function of cultural and natural heritage in the life of the community
Contribution of heritage to sustainable development policies

- There is **no integration** of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies in:
  - Contributing to inclusion and equality
  - Enhancing the quality of life and well-being
  - Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights
  - Respecting, consulting and involving indigenous peoples and local communities
  - Achieving gender equality
  - Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods
  - Promoting economic investment and quality tourism
  - Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship
- There is **limited integration** of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies in:
  - Protecting biological and cultural diversity and providing ecosystem services and benefits
  - Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change

#### Larger-scale planning

#### Status of services for protection, conservation and presentation

#### Financial status

#### Human resources

#### Capacity development

- The State Party **is not using** the Capacity Building Strategy **for the implementation of capacity building at the national level**
  - The State Party **is not using** the Capacity Building Strategy **for the implementation of capacity building at the regional/sub-regional level**
  - The State Party **is not using** the Capacity Building Strategy to **identify capacity building priorities**
  - The State Party **is not using** the Capacity Building Strategy **by fundraising to support capacity building programmes**
  - The State Party **is not using** the Capacity Building Strategy **by raising awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage**
- There is **no national strategy** for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management but this is **being done on an ad hoc basis**

#### Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties

- There is **no national capacity building strategy** in relation to World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management **but capacity building is being done on an ad hoc basis**

#### Research on World Heritage properties

#### International cooperation

Forms of international cooperation and cooperation mechanisms for heritage promoted by the State Party since the last Periodic Report:

- Participation in other UN programmes, including sustainable development programmes and human rights and gender equality programmes
- Bilateral and multilateral agreements
- Financial support
- Sharing expertise for capacity building
- Hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars
- Distribution of material/information

#### Education, information and awareness building

- There are **no strategies** to raise awareness among communities and stakeholders about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage but this is **being done on an ad hoc basis**

### 13.2. Actions for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (identified from table 13.1).

#### 13.2.1 - Please select the top issues (up to ten)

5.11	Integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies	
5.11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is <b>no integration</b> of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to inclusion and equality</li> <li>• Enhancing the quality of life and well-being</li> <li>• Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights</li> <li>• Respecting, consulting and involving indigenous peoples and local communities</li> <li>• Achieving gender equality</li> <li>• Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods</li> <li>• Promoting economic investment and quality tourism</li> <li>• Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is <b>limited integration</b> of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting biological and cultural diversity and providing ecosystem services and benefits</li> <li>• Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	✕
9	Capacity Development	

9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Party <b>is not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>for the implementation of capacity building at the national level</b></li> <li>• The State Party <b>is not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>for the implementation of capacity building at the regional/sub-regional level</b></li> <li>• The State Party <b>is not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy to <b>identify capacity building priorities</b></li> <li>• The State Party <b>is not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>by fundraising to support capacity building programmes</b></li> <li>• The State Party <b>is not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>by raising awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage</b></li> </ul>	×
9.4	There is <b>no national strategy</b> for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management but this is <b>being done on an ad hoc basis</b>	×
10	<b>Policy and Resourcing of World Heritage Properties</b>	
10.8	There is <b>no national capacity building strategy</b> in relation to World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management <b>but capacity building is being done on an ad hoc basis</b>	×
11	<b>International Cooperation</b>	
11.1	<p>Forms of international cooperation and cooperation mechanisms for heritage promoted by the State Party since the last Periodic Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in other UN programmes, including sustainable development programmes and human rights and gender equality programmes</li> <li>• Bilateral and multilateral agreements</li> <li>• Financial support</li> <li>• Sharing expertise for capacity building</li> <li>• Hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars</li> <li>• Distribution of material/information</li> </ul>	×
12	<b>Education, Information and Awareness Building</b>	
12.1	There are <b>no strategies</b> to raise awareness among communities and stakeholders about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage but this is <b>being done on an ad hoc basis</b>	×
Please select 0 more issues.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please save this question to reflect changes		

### 13.3. Priority Actions Assessment

#### 13.3.1 - Please indicate priority actions to address items rated as poor

5.11	Integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies	Action	Short description	Authority(ies) responsible	Timeframe	May this action require International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund?
5.11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is <b>limited integration</b> of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to inclusion and equality</li> <li>• Enhancing the quality of life and well-being</li> <li>• Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights</li> <li>• Respecting, consulting and involving indigenous peoples and local communities</li> <li>• Achieving gender equality</li> <li>• Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods</li> <li>• Promoting economic investment and quality tourism</li> <li>• Strengthening capacity-building,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage is a part of National legislation and would be included in future policy documents.				

	innovation and local entrepreneurship					
9	Capacity Development					
9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Party is <b>not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>for the implementation of capacity building at the national level</b></li> <li>• The State Party is <b>not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>for the implementation of capacity building at the regional/sub-regional level</b></li> <li>• The State Party is <b>not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy to <b>identify capacity building priorities</b></li> <li>• The State Party is <b>not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>by fundraising to support capacity building programmes</b></li> <li>• The State Party is <b>not using</b> the Capacity Building Strategy <b>by raising awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage</b></li> </ul>					
9.4	There is <b>no national strategy</b> for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management but this is <b>being done on an ad hoc basis</b>					
10	Policy and Resourcing of World Heritage Properties					
10.8	There is <b>no national capacity building strategy</b> in relation to World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management <b>but capacity building is being done on an ad hoc basis</b>					
11	International Cooperation					
11.1	<p>Forms of international cooperation and cooperation mechanisms for heritage promoted by the State Party since the last Periodic Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in other UN programmes, including sustainable development programmes and human rights and gender equality programmes</li> <li>• Bilateral and</li> </ul>					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• multilateral agreements</li> <li>• Financial support</li> <li>• Sharing expertise for capacity building</li> <li>• Hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars</li> <li>• Distribution of material/information</li> </ul>					
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12	Education, Information and Awareness Building					
12.1	There are <b>no strategies</b> to raise awareness among communities and stakeholders about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage but this is <b>being done on an ad hoc basis</b>					

Please indicate priority actions to address items rated as **poor** completed

#### 13.4. Additional actions for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

##### 13.4.1 - Please indicate any additional actions for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*

#### 14. Good Practice in the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

##### 14.1 - Example of good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation or management at the State Party level.

According to the national legislation – Protected areas Act (PAA) there are 6 categories of protection on national level which are in accordance with IUCN criteria. As a principle the more intact the nature is the more strict its regimes of protection are. Of all categories the reserves (IUCN category I) and managed reserves (category IV according to IUCN) are with the strictest regimes followed by the national parks (category II according to IUCN). The national parks, strict reserves and managed reserve to which belong the three natural properties are the categories of protection with the highest possible legal protection and exclusively state property. All of the 3 natural WHP fall within those three categories of protection, i.e. the 9 strict reserves in Central Balkan National park are cluster component part of the serial WHP. Srebarna WHP is a managed reserve according to the Bulgarian legislation and Pirin is a National park. According to the Constitution and the PAA the „national parks“, „strict reserves“ and „managed reserves“ are exclusively state property and the Ministry of environment and water (MOEW) and its regional departments provide their management and control over the activities. For the three WHP there are particular administrations under the MOEW which provide their management and control over the activities. I.e. for the two national parks – Pirin and Central Balkan National parks are established National park Directorates under the MOEW and for Srebarna Managed reserve is responsible the Regional Inspectorate of environment and water for the town of Russe which is also a structure of the MOEW. The legislation also requires those territories to have management plans (MP) adopted. All three properties have their management plans adopted and active. The MPs provide zoning of the territories and determine specific regimes and norms according to their conservation value. The State Party applies purposeful state policy aimed at preservation of these protected areas and World Heritage Properties.

##### 14.2 - Define which topics are covered by this example of good practice at the State Party level.

Sustainable Development
Synergies
State of Conservation
Management
Governance

#### 15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

##### 15.1. Primary institution responsible for communicating with UNESCO on the World Heritage Convention

##### 15.1.1 - Which primary institution is responsible for communicating with UNESCO with regards to the World Heritage Convention?

Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and National Commission for UNESCO), Ministry of Environment and Waters

##### 15.2. Relevance and Objectives of Periodic Reporting

##### 15.2.1 - Relevance and Objectives of Periodic Reporting

State Party	Good
Site Managers	Good
UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Good
Advisory Bodies	Good

### 15.3. The four Objectives of Periodic Reporting

#### 15.3.1 - How well does the current questionnaire address each of the four Objectives of Periodic Reporting?

	Objective	Not at all	Partially	Adequately
15.3.1.1	Provide an assessment of the implementation of the <i>World Heritage Convention</i> by the State Party			×
15.3.1.2	Provide an assessment as to whether the values of World Heritage properties are being maintained over time			×
15.3.1.3	Provide updated information about World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the property			×
15.3.1.4	Provide a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties about the implementation of the <i>World Heritage Convention</i> , and World Heritage conservation		×	

### 15.4. Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

#### 15.4.1 -

The space dedicated for answers and comments is quite insufficient. The answers regarding cultural and natural properties are sometimes quite different and the questionnaire do not allow to distinguish them well. Some of the questions as well as the proposed answers to them are not very clear which may bring to different interpretations and consequently to not totally correct answers in general. It is not clear if some of the questions refer to natural heritage in general or particularly to World heritage properties.

### 15.5. Use of Data

#### 15.5.1 - How does your State Party plan to use the data?

Revision of priorities/strategies/policies for the protection, management and conservation of heritage
Updating management plans
Fundraising
Awareness raising
Reporting on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals
Improve the States Party implementation on the Convention

### 15.6. Timing and resources

#### 15.6.1 - Were your national authorities given adequate time (i.e. roughly ten months) to gather necessary information and to fill in the questionnaire during this cycle of Periodic Reporting?

Yes

#### 15.6.2 - Please estimate the time (working hours) and the number of people involved in completing Section I of the questionnaire.

	Time & people	Number of hours worked	Number of people involved
15.6.2.1	Gathering data	100	3
15.6.2.2	Consulting stakeholders	30	10
15.6.2.3	Filling in the questionnaire	100	4

#### 15.6.3 - Has a gender balanced contribution and participation been considered and implemented in the filling out of this questionnaire?

Gender balance has been **explicitly considered** in the process **but there are still deficiencies** its implementation.

#### 15.6.4 - Did your national authorities mobilise any additional resources to carry out this cycle of Periodic Reporting?

	Additional resources	No	Yes
15.6.4.1	Human resources	×	
15.6.4.2	Financial resources for organizing consultation meetings/training	×	

#### 15.6.5 - Please provide details on any additional resources mobilised.

N/A

### 15.7. Format and Content of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire

#### 15.7.1 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Some of the required information was accessible

#### 15.7.2 - Was the questionnaire easy to use and clear to understand?

Using the questionnaire	good
Understanding the questions	good

#### 15.7.3 - Please provide suggestions for improvement

### 15.8. Training and guidance

#### 15.8.1 - Please rate the level of support received in terms of training and guidance from the following entities for the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

World Heritage Centre	Good
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UNESCO (other sectors)	Not applicable
UNESCO National Commission	Good
ICOMOS International	Not applicable
IUCN International	Fair
ICCROM International/regional	Not applicable
ICOMOS national/regional	Not applicable
IUCN national/regional	Fair
Category 2 Centres	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable
If 'Other' applies, please specify	

**15.8.2 - Were the online training resources provided by the World Heritage Centre regarding Periodic Reporting adequate for your national authorities to complete the online questionnaire?**

Yes

**15.8.3 - Please provide further comments on the online training resources**

15.9. Comments

**15.9.1 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise**

**15.9.2 - Thank you for having filled in all the questions.**