

Vatnajökull National Park - Dynamic Nature of Fire and Ice

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage property

Vatnajökull National Park - Dynamic Nature of Fire and Ice

1.2 - World Heritage property details

1.3 - Geographic information table

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Vatnajökull National Park - Dynamic Nature of Fire and Ice - Map of the inscribed property	2019	

1.5 - Web and Social Media data of the property (if applicable)

1. [Vatnajökulsthjóðgardur National Park](#)

Comment

<https://www.facebook.com/Vatnajokulsthjodgardur> https://www.instagram.com/vatnajokull_national_park/

2. Other Conventions/Programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected (if applicable)

2.1 - Records indicate that your World Heritage property (in whole or in part) is designated and/or protected under the Conventions/programmes shown in the prefilled table below. Please check and amend as necessary.

		The World Heritage property (in whole or in part) <u>is</u> designated and/or protected under this convention/programme	The World Heritage property (in whole or in part) <u>is not</u> designated and/or protected under this convention/programme
2.1.1	International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection (1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict)		×
2.1.2	List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection (Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict)		×
2.1.3	The List of Wetlands of International Importance (The Ramsar List) (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention))	×	
2.1.4	World Network of Biosphere Reserves Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme		×
2.1.5	Global Geoparks Network UNESCO Global Geoparks		×

2.2 - Please provide comments on 2.1 if necessary

2.3 - Do your national authorities intend to request the granting of Enhanced Protection (if relevant) under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for the World Heritage property in the next three years?

No

2.4 - Do your national authorities intend to designate whole or part of the World Heritage property for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (The Ramsar List), if relevant, in the next three years?

No

2.5 - Do your national authorities intend to designate whole or part of the World Heritage property as a Man and Biosphere Reserve (if relevant) in the next three years?

No

2.6 - Do your national authorities intend to apply for whole or part of World Heritage property to be designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark (if relevant) in the next three years?

No

2.7 - Please indicate the level of cooperation at property level between designations under different Conventions/Programmes

2.7.1	1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✘
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.2	Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✘
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✘
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✘
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	
2.7.5	UNESCO Global Geoparks	
2.7.1	There is no contact with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.2	The World Heritage Site Manager occasionally communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	
2.7.3	The World Heritage Site Manager regularly communicates with the Focal Point(s) of this designation/programme.	✘
2.7.4	The World Heritage Site Manager also manages this designation/programme.	

2.8 - Please add any further comments on cooperation with the other designation(s)/programme(s)

2.9 - Are you aware of any elements associated with the World Heritage property that have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage?

No

2.10 - Please list any elements associated with the World Heritage property inscribed under the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of which you are aware

2.11 - Are you aware of any documentary heritage listed under the Memory of the World Programme associated with the World Heritage property?

No

2.12 - Please list any documentary heritage associated with the World Heritage property listed under the Memory of the World Programme of which you are aware.

3. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property as adopted by the World Heritage Committee

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The property, totalling over 1,400,000 ha, comprises the whole of Vatnajökull National Park, plus two contiguous protected areas. At its heart lies the c.780,000 ha Vatnajökull ice cap in southeast Iceland.

Iceland includes the only part of the actively spreading Mid-Atlantic Ridge exposed above sea level, with the tectonic plates on either side moving apart by some 19 mm each year. This movement is accommodated in rift zones, two of which, the Eastern and Northern Volcanic Zones, pass through the property. Underneath their

intersection is a mantle plume providing a generous source of magma. The property contains ten central volcanoes, eight of which are subglacial. Two of the latter are among the four most active in Iceland. Most of the property's bedrock is basaltic, the oldest being erupted some 10 million years ago and the most recent in 2015. Outside of the ice cap, the terrain varies from extensive, flat lava flows to mountains, including tuyas and tindar (ridges) of brown hyaloclastites, erupted in fissure eruptions beneath ice age glaciers. The latter occur nowhere else in the world in such numbers.

The property comprises an entire system where magma and the lithosphere are incessantly interacting with the cryosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere to create extremely dynamic and diverse geological processes and landforms that are currently underrepresented or not found on the World Heritage List. It was here that the phrase "Fire and Ice" was coined. The Vatnajökull ice cap reached its greatest extent by the end of the 18th century and has on average been retreating since then. Recently, its retreat has accelerated in response to global warming, making the property a prime locality for exploring the impacts of climate change on glaciers and the landforms left behind when they retreat. The volcanic zones of the property hold endemic groundwater fauna that has survived the ice age and single-celled organisms prosper in the inhospitable environment of subglacial lakes that may replicate conditions on early Earth and the icy satellites of Jupiter and Saturn.

Criterion (viii): The coexistence and ongoing interaction of an active oceanic rift on land, a mantle plume, the atmosphere and an ice cap, which has varied in size and extent over the past 2.8 million years, make the property unique in a global context. Earth system interactions are constantly building and reshaping the property, creating remarkably diverse landscapes and a wide variety of tectonic, volcanic and glaciovolcanic features. Especially interesting and unique in this regard are the basaltic lava shields (Iceland shields), volcanic fissures and cone rows, vast flood lavas, and features of ice dominant glacio-volcanism, such as tuyas and tindar. Interestingly, the well exposed volcanic features of the property have been used as analogues for similar features on the planet Mars. Geothermal heat and subglacial eruptions produce meltwater and jökulhlaups that maintain globally unique sandur plains, to the north and south of the Vatnajökull ice cap, as well as rapidly evolving canyons. In addition, the property contains a dynamic array of glacial- and geomorphological features, created by expanding or retreating glaciers responding to changes in climate. These features can be easily accessed and explored at the snouts of Vatnajökull's many outlet glaciers and their forelands, especially in the southern lowlands, making the property a flagship glacial research location.

Integrity

The property covers over 25% of the central highlands of Iceland and extends onto lowland areas to the south to cover a total of approximately 12% of the country. Most of the property corresponds to an IUCN Category II protected area. Its integrity is reflected in the inclusion of entire and intact landscape and geophysical units, minimal human use and intervention, and scientific interest in the property. The site contains the entire Vatnajökull ice cap, with all its subsidiary glaciers as they stood in 1998. It spans some 200 km of divergent plate boundary and encompasses ten central volcanoes and large parts of the accompanying fissure swarms and subsidiary landforms. The area is largely intact and remote from habituated areas with some 85% of the property classified as wilderness. An intense international scientific interest in the property is evidenced by at least 281 scientific peer reviewed papers, published over the last decade, on various aspects of plate tectonics, volcanism, glaciovolcanism, glaciology, glacial geomorphology and ecology. There has been no destructive human development within the property's boundaries. A few historic farms exist, but today only a few park employees live there on a year-round basis.

Management and protection requirements

The large majority of the property is protected by the Act on Vatnajökull National Park No. 60/2007 and Regulation No. 608/2008 (with subsequent amendments), whilst Herðubreiðarlindir and Lónsöræfi Nature Reserves are protected according to the Nature Conservation Act No. 47/1971. A range of other important national legislation is in place to ensure protection. Most of the land adjacent to the property is subject to the law on public land, where any invasive use requires approval by the Prime Minister's Office.

The government agency Vatnajökull National Park (Vatnajökulspjóðgarður) is the primary state agency responsible for implementing the park legislation, and is an effective organization, supported at all levels by the Icelandic government, local municipalities and businesses. There is mature governance in place together with experienced staff responsible for management employed on a long-term basis, including a strong complement of permanent and temporary staff.

There is a comprehensive Management Strategy and action plan in place, that have achieved a notably high level of local input to decision making, and which are subject to regular review and updating. Areas added to the national park since 2013 are progressively integrated into management arrangements. An effective long-term monitoring system is in place, using space- and ground-based observations, for improved evaluation of seismo-tectonic movements and volcanic hazards as well as for glacial flow and fluctuations and key aspects of the property's biota.

The property has an adequate and secure budget to cover essential staff and operations, with the principal financial support from the central government and up to 30% which is generated from its own income. Significant other support has also come from the government controlled Tourist Site Protection Fund and the non-profit organisation Friends of Vatnajökull. There is a need to sustain and further increase resourcing to ensure the management needs of the property are fully met.

Risk management is a major issue in this highly dynamic setting where natural hazards are common. Other essential management issues include preventing wear and tear of nature at popular visitor destinations within the property, resolving visitor use conflicts, and addressing occasional illegal activities in the property when they arise. There is a need to develop and maintain adequate facilities for educating, managing and guiding the ever-increasing numbers of visitors, which were approaching one million in 2017, ensuring that any such provision is designed, assessed and implemented in a manner that ensures the protection of the property's conservation significance. There is also a need to continue to work with local communities, organizations and businesses around the park to maintain their involvement and help them benefit from the park.

3.2 - Please list the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of your property and give an assessment of their condition. As a guideline, it is suggested to focus on approximately five key attributes (no more than 15 overall).

	Brief identification of attribute	Preserved	Compromised	Seriously compromised	Lost
3.2.1	The coexistence and ongoing interaction of an active oceanic rift on land, a mantle plume, the atmosphere and an ice cap, make the property unique in a global context. The next six attributes are the main consequences of these four elements.	✘			
3.2.2	Basaltic lava fields	✘			
3.2.3	Volcanic fissures and cone rows	✘			
3.2.4	Vast flood lavas	✘			
3.2.5	Features of ice dominant glacio-volcanism, such as tuyas and tindar.	✘			
3.2.6	Sandur plains	✘			
3.2.7	Glacial- and geomorphological features		✘		
3.2.8	From all listed above, one combines all the attributes: Ongoing dynamic processes.	✘			

3.2.9					
3.2.10					
3.2.11					
3.2.12					
3.2.13					
3.2.14					
3.2.15					

3.3 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3.2.: From all listed here, one combines all the attributes: Ongoing dynamic processes and the coexistence and active interaction of a divergent tectonic plate boundary, a mantle plume and a large ice cap. 3.2.7. Glacial- and geomorphological features are listed as compromised. These features are subject to natural erosion due to etc jökulhlaup or just even spring melt-water in front of retreating glaciers.

4. Factors Affecting the Property

4.1. Buildings and Development

4.1.1 - Housing

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.1.2 - Commercial development

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.1.3 - Industrial areas

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.1.4 - Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.1.5 - Interpretative and visitation facilities

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negative							

4.1.6 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.1 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Minor interpretation and visitation facilities are within the property on sites which are planned in the management plan as service centers or sites. These facilities enhance the visitors experiment and education.

4.2. Transportation Infrastructure

4.2.1 - Ground transport infrastructure

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative							

4.2.2 - Underground transport infrastructure

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.2.3 - Air transport infrastructure

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.2.4 - Marine transport infrastructure

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.2.5 - Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.2.6 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.2 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Ground transport infrastructure is mainly the road system, already within the property prior to protection, giving access to the property.

4.3. Services Infrastructures

4.3.1 - Water infrastructure

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.3.2 - Renewable energy facilities

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Negative							

4.3.3 - Non-renewable energy facilities

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.3.4 - Localised utilities

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.3.5 - Major linear utilities

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.3.6 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.3 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Hydro power infrastructure, outside, but in the vicinity, of the designated property, has currently the same status as the year of incision. Within certain sites renewable energy facilities are in use, etc geothermal water for heating and solar panels for electricity, all of the mentioned facilities have minor effect on the property. Major linear utilities has the same status as the year of incision and have minor effect for the visitor's experience.

4.4. Pollution

4.4.1 - Pollution of marine waters

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.4.2 - Ground water pollution

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.4.3 - Surface water pollution

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.4.4 - Air pollution

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.4.5 - Solid waste

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.4.6 - Input of excess energy

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.4.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.4 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

4.5. Biological resource use/modification

4.5.1 - Fishing/collecting aquatic resources

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.2 - Aquaculture

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.3 - Land conversion

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.4 - Livestock farming/Grazing of domesticated animals

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.5 - Crop production

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.6 - Commercial wild plant collection

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.7 - Subsistence wild plant collection

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.8 - Commercial hunting

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.9 - Subsistence hunting

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Negative							

4.5.10 - Forestry/Wood production

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.5.11 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.5 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Reindeer hunting in E and S parts within the vicinity. Strict controlling of the population, managed by the Environment Agency of Iceland and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History.

4.6. Physical resource extraction

4.6.1 - Mining

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.6.2 - Quarrying

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive							
Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

4.6.3 - Oil and gas

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.6.4 - Water (extraction)

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.6.5 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.6 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Quarrying. Concerns an area that became a part of the property in 2017 (Breiðamerkursandur). Work on the provisions for the management plan was in progress during the nomination process. The result was an exemption clause, allowing (continuing) mining in context of weighted public, national, and natural interests. These include maintenance of erosion protection infrastructures on riverbanks, due to encroachment of sea (affecting road no.1 for public transports).

4.7. Local conditions affecting physical fabric

4.7.1 - Wind

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.2 - Relative humidity

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.3 - Temperature

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.4 - Radiation/Light

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.5 - Dust

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.6 - Water (rain/water table)

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.7 - Pests

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.8 - Micro-organisms

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.7.9 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.7 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Wind, water, temperature and dust are an integrated part of the ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms within the property.

4.8. Social/Cultural uses of heritage

4.8.1 - Ritual/Spiritual/Religious and associative uses

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.8.2 - Society's valuing of heritage

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.8.3 - Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.8.4 - Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.8.5 - Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.8.6 - Impacts of tourism/Visitation/Recreation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive							
Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

4.8.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.8 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Increase in the number of visitors before the pandemic put a heavy strain on the nature and infrastructure at the most popular sites. Measures are regularly taken in enhancing infrastructure were efficient and/or have turned toward regulatory measures that restrict access or spread the tourism flow more efficiently in time and space.

4.9. Other human activities

4.9.1 - Illegal activities

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.9.2 - Deliberate destruction of heritage

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.9.3 - Military training

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.9.4 - War

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.9.5 - Terrorism

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.9.6 - Civil unrest

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.9.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.9 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Deliberate destruction of heritage in the form of illegal off-road driving continues to be a threat to soil and vegetation conservation in some areas, although there are ongoing projects which aim to increase monitoring and implement protective measures. The effect on the OUV of the property is estimated low and therefore not listed as "relevant" in question 4.9.2.

4.10. Climate change and severe weather events

4.10.1 - Storms

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.10.2 - Flooding

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.10.3 - Drought

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.10.4 - Desertification

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.10.5 - Changes to oceanic waters

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.10.6 - Temperature change

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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Impact	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive							
Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.10.7 - Other climate change impacts

Relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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4.10.8 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.10 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Higher annual average temperature increase glacier reduction. Continued climate warming will in the long-term significantly affect a major aspect of the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, the Vatnajökull ice cap.

4.11. Sudden ecological or geological events

4.11.1 - Volcanic eruption

Relevant Not relevant

4.11.2 - Earthquake

Relevant Not relevant

4.11.3 - Tsunami/Tidal wave

Relevant Not relevant

4.11.4 - Avalanche/Landslide

Relevant Not relevant

4.11.5 - Erosion and siltation/Deposition

Relevant Not relevant

4.11.6 - Fire (wildfire)

Relevant Not relevant

4.11.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.11 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

Value of the property; natural hazards such as tectonic movements, volcanic eruptions and jökulhlaups are an integral part of its value. Natural sandy deserts within the property are formed by natural processes. A few of the areas, however, were formerly vegetated. Their desertification is attributed to volcanic ash deposition and lowering of ecosystem resilience by grazing. There is increased risk of local, rock slide due to unstable hills due to retreating glaciers. Non-relevant to the OUV.

4.12. Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species

4.12.1 - Translocated species

Relevant Not relevant

4.12.2 - Invasive/Alien terrestrial species

Relevant Not relevant

Impact	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
	Current	Potential	Inside	Outside	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
Positive							
Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.12.3 - Invasive/Alien freshwater species

Relevant Not relevant

4.12.4 - Invasive/Alien marine species

Relevant Not relevant

4.12.5 - Hyper-abundant species

Relevant Not relevant

4.12.6 - Modified genetic material

Relevant Not relevant

4.12.7 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.12 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

The only invasive plant alien species of any concern within the property is the herbaceous Nootka lupine, *Lupinus nootkatensis*. The only invasive mammal alien species of any concern is the feral mink.

4.13. Management and institutional factors

4.13.1 - Management system/Management plan

✘ Relevant			Not relevant				
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	→ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✘	✘		✘				📈
🔴 Negative							

4.13.2 - Legal framework

✘ Relevant			Not relevant				
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	→ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✘	✘			✘		→	
🔴 Negative							

4.13.3 - Governance

✘ Relevant			Not relevant				
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	→ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✘	✘		✘	✘		→	
🔴 Negative							

4.13.4 - Management activities

✘ Relevant			Not relevant				
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	→ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✘	✘		✘			→	
🔴 Negative							

4.13.5 - Financial resources

✘ Relevant			Not relevant				
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	→ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✘	✘		✘	✘		→	
🔴 Negative							

4.13.6 - Human resources

✘ Relevant			Not relevant				
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	→ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✘	✘		✘			→	
🔴 Negative							

4.13.7 - Low impact research/monitoring activities

✘ Relevant			Not relevant				
	Impact		Origin		Trend of impact		
Impact	🔴 Current	🟡 Potential	🟢 Inside	🟢 Outside	📉 Decreasing	→ Stable	📈 Increasing
🟢 Positive ✘	✘		✘	✘			📈
🔴 Negative							

4.13.8 - High impact research/monitoring activities

Relevant
 Not relevant

4.13.9 - Please comment as necessary on how the factors selected as relevant in 4.13 are affecting the property either negatively or positively

4.14. Other factor(s)

4.14.1 - Other factor(s)

4.15. Factors Summary Table

4.15.1 - Factors Summary Table

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.1 Buildings and Development			
4.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities	+		
4.2 Transportation Infrastructure			
4.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure	+		
4.3 Services Infrastructures			
4.3.2 Renewable energy facilities	+		
4.5 Biological resource use/modification			
4.5.9 Subsistence hunting	+		
4.6 Physical resource extraction			
4.6.2 Quarrying	-		
4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage			
4.8.6 Impacts of tourism/Visitation/Recreation	-		
4.10 Climate change and severe weather events			
4.10.6 Temperature change	-		
4.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species			
4.12.2 Invasive/Alien terrestrial species	-		
4.13 Management and institutional factors			
4.13.1 Management system/Management plan	+		
4.13.2 Legal framework	+		
4.13.3 Governance	+		
4.13.4 Management activities	+		

4.13.5 Financial resources						
4.13.6 Human resources						
4.13.7 Low impact research/monitoring activities						
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside

4.16. Assessment of current and potential positive and negative factors

4.16.1 - Assessment of current and potential negative and positive factors

4.1 Buildings and Development

Name	Impact			Origin		Trend
4.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities						

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes

	Insignificant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor
	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High capacity
	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years

	Decreasing
	Static
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increasing

4.2 Transportation Infrastructure

Name		Impact			Origin		Trend
4.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure							
Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor							
	Restricted						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised						
	Extensive						
	Widespread						
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact							
	One off or rare						
	Intermittent or sporadic						
	Frequent						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-going						
Impact - Impact on the attributes							
	Insignificant						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor						
	Significant						
	Major						
Management response - Capacity of management to respond							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High capacity						
	Medium capacity						
	Low capacity						
	No capacity and / or resources						
Trend - Development over the last 6 years							
	Decreasing						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static						
	Increasing						

4.3 Services Infrastructures

Name		Impact			Origin		Trend
4.3.2 Renewable energy facilities							
Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted						
	Localised						
	Extensive						
	Widespread						
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact							
	One off or rare						

	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✘	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
✘	Insignificant
	Minor
	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
✘	High capacity
	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✘	Static
	Increasing

4.5 Biological resource use/modification

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.5.9 Subsistence hunting	 		

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
✘	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
✘	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
✘	Insignificant
	Minor
	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
	Medium capacity
✘	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing

4.6 Physical resource extraction

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.6.2 Quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extensive
<input type="checkbox"/>	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
<input type="checkbox"/>	One off or rare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intermittent or sporadic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent
<input type="checkbox"/>	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insignificant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
<input type="checkbox"/>	High capacity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing

4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.8.6 Impacts of tourism/Visitation/Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised

	Extensive
	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✘	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
✘	Minor
	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✘	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
	Static
✘	Increasing

4.10 Climate change and severe weather events

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.10.6 Temperature change	 	 	

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
✘	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✘	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
✘	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	

	High capacity
	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
✗	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
	Static
✗	Increasing

4.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.12.2 Invasive/Alien terrestrial species			
	 	 	

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
✗	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
✗	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
✗	Minor
	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
✗	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
✗	Static
	Increasing

4.13 Management and institutional factors

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.1 Management system/Management plan	 		

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
X	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
X	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes

	Insignificant
	Minor
X	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond

X	High capacity
	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources

Trend - Development over the last 6 years

	Decreasing
	Static
X	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.2 Legal framework			

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor

	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
X	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact

	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
X	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes

	Insignificant
	Minor

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.3 Governance	 	 	

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
	Localised
	Extensive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High capacity
	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.4 Management activities	 	 	

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extensive
<input type="checkbox"/>	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
<input type="checkbox"/>	One off or rare
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermittent or sporadic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insignificant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.5 Financial resources			

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extensive
<input type="checkbox"/>	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
<input type="checkbox"/>	One off or rare
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermittent or sporadic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insignificant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Significant
	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.6 Human resources	 		

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
	Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised
	Extensive
	Widespread

Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
	One off or rare
	Intermittent or sporadic
	Frequent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-going

Impact - Impact on the attributes	
	Insignificant
	Minor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Significant
	Major

Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
	High capacity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium capacity
	Low capacity
	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
	Decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Static
	Increasing

Name	Impact	Origin	Trend
4.13.7 Low impact research/monitoring activities	 	 	

Spatial scale - Area affected by the factor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extensive
<input type="checkbox"/>	Widespread
Temporal scale - Occurrence of the impact	
<input type="checkbox"/>	One off or rare
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermittent or sporadic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-going
Impact - Impact on the attributes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insignificant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Significant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major
Management response - Capacity of management to respond	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	No capacity and / or resources
Trend - Development over the last 6 years	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreasing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Static
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increasing

4.17. Serial inscriptions (national or transnational)

4.17.1 - If your property is a serial inscription (national or transnational) please identify which components of the property are impacted by each factor

4.18. Prediction of the state of conservation at next cycle of Periodic Reporting.

4.18.1 - Please predict what the state of conservation of each attribute will be approximately 6 years from now (at the time of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting)

	Attribute	Preserved	Compromised	Seriously compromised	Lost
4.18.1.1	Basaltic lava fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.18.1.2	Volcanic fissures and cone rows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.18.1.3	Vast flood lavas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.18.1.4	Features of ice dominant glacio-volcanism, such as tuyas and tindars.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.18.1.5	Sandur plains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Protection and Management of the Property

5.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

5.1.1 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries are **adequate to maintain** the property's Outstanding Universal Value

5.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known and recognised?

The boundaries **are known by both** the management authority and local communities/landowners

5.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property has **no buffer zone** and **does not need one**

5.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the buffer zones known and recognised?

The property has **no known and recognised** buffer zone

5.1.5 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

As stated in the Unesco nomination there is not a need for buffer zones. See chapter 5b.

5.2. Protective Measures

5.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and/or traditional).

Comment

The following protective designation apply to the property: Act No.60/2007 on Vatnajökull National Park One adjoining nature reserve, Lónsöræfi, is protected by Decrees 272/1974 and 31/1977, based on the Nature Conservation Act No. 60/2013 on Nature Conservation Act 2012 No. 80/2012 on Cultural Heritage

5.2.2 - Please list any legislation and other measures (regulatory -including spatial planning- contractual, institutional or traditional) not included in 5.2.1 and indicate the category

5.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation including spatial planning) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and/or Authenticity of the property?

The **legal framework** for maintaining of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate basis for effective management and protection**

5.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and/or Authenticity of the property?

The property has **no buffer zone**

5.2.5 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation) in the broader setting of the World Heritage property adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and/or Authenticity of the property?

The **legal framework** for the broader setting of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate basis for effective management and protection** of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity

5.2.6 - Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation) be enforced?

There is **adequate capacity/resources** to enforce legislation and/or regulation in the World Heritage property

5.2.7 - Please provide a short summary of how the legislation, including spatial planning and other regulation, works in practice

5.2.8 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations about the information related to the measures taken to protect the World Heritage property

5.3. Management System/Management Plan

5.3.1 - Please check the box which most closely match the character of the governance and management system of the property

Public management system at national level

If 'Other', please specify

5.3.2 - Management System: Please indicate which of the various management tools listed below are used to help protect the property.

A statutory Management Plan or zoning plan for the property.

Other forms of statutory or non-statutory plans (e.g. strategic plans)

An annual work plan or business plan

A disaster, climate or conflict risk management plan

An environmental management framework

5.3.3 - Please give a brief description of the management system currently in place at your property

5.3.4 - Management Documents

Title	Status	Available	Date	Link to source
Management Plan	N/A	Available	2019	

Comment

Third version of the Management Plan was published in 2022. Defined aspects of the plan were reviewed, in light of developments in tourism, nature conservation and administration. In addition, aforementioned appendices for two areas, Krepptunga in the east and Breidmerkursandur in the south were added and the provisions on hunting in the eastern area were reviewed. An English translation of the plan is not available. The Icelandic version is on the park web page (see link in q.5.19)

5.3.5 - Has any use been made of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in developing policies and best practices for the protection of this property?

The 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is **not relevant** to this property

5.3.6 - If the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation has been used at this property, please describe briefly what has been done.

5.3.7 - Has any use been made of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties at the property?

No use has been made of the World Heritage Policy for Climate Change

5.3.8 - If the Climate Change policy has been used, please briefly describe what has been done along with any research on the impacts of Climate Change on the property:

5.3.9 - Has any use been made of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties at the property ?

No use has been made of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties

5.3.10 - If the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties has been used, please briefly describe what has been done

5.3.11 - Rate the coordination between the various levels of administration (i.e. national/federal; regional/provincial/state; local/municipal etc.) involved in the management of the World Heritage property

There is **adequate coordination** between all bodies/levels involved in the management of the property

5.3.12 - Is the management system/plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The management system/plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

5.3.13 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully implemented and monitored**

5.3.14 - Is there an annual work/action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work/action plan **exists and many of its activities are being implemented**

5.3.15 - Does the management system include formal mechanisms and procedures that ensure participation and contribution of the following groups, living within or near the World Heritage property and/or buffer zone in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property?

		Not applicable	No mechanisms for participation	Some participation	Direct participation	Transformative participation in all relevant decision processes
5.3.15.1	Local communities					✗
5.3.15.2	Local authorities					✗
5.3.15.3	Landowners in the property and the buffer zone					✗
5.3.15.4	Indigenous peoples	✗				
5.3.15.5	Women					✗
5.3.15.6	Other specific groups					✗
	If you selected, 'Other specific groups' please specify	Local tourism companies, NGOs, research institutions,				

5.3.16 - Please rate the cooperation/relationship between the World Heritage property managers/coordinators/staff and the following groups

		Not applicable	Non-existent	Poor	Fair	Good
5.3.16.1	Local communities					✗
5.3.16.2	Local/Municipal authorities					✗
5.3.16.3	Indigenous peoples	✗				
5.3.16.4	Landowners					✗
5.3.16.5	Women					✗
5.3.16.6	Youth/Children					✗
5.3.16.7	Researchers					✗
5.3.16.8	Local Visitors/Tourists					✗
5.3.16.9	National/International tourists					✗
5.3.16.10	Tourism Industry					✗

6.1.6 - Estimate the distribution of men and women involved in the management, conservation, interpretation of the World Heritage properties and the extent to which they are drawn from local communities.

		From local communities %	From elsewhere %
6.1.6.1	Men	37 %	42 %
6.1.6.2	Women	63 %	58 %
		Total 100 %	Total 100 %

6.1.7 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

Human resources **partly meet** the management needs of the World Heritage property

6.1.8 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Conservation	Good
Environmental sustainability	Fair
Community participation and inclusion	Good
Risk preparedness	Good
Capacity development and education	Good
Administration	Good
Research and monitoring	Good
Awareness raising and public information/communication	Good
Marketing and promotion	Fair
Interpretation	Good
Visitor management/tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Good

6.1.9 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Conservation	Good
Environmental sustainability	Good
Community participation and inclusion	Good
Risk preparedness	Good
Capacity development and education	Good
Administration	Good
Research and monitoring	Not applicable
Awareness raising and public information/communication	Good
Marketing and promotion	Good
Interpretation	Good
Visitor management/tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Not applicable

6.1.10 - Has any use been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building at the property?

No use has been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building

6.1.11 - If the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building has been used, please briefly describe what has been done.

6.1.12 - Are there site-specific capacity building plans or programmes that develop local expertise and that contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property?

A **site-based** capacity building plan or programme is in place and partially implemented; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, **but most technical work is carried out by external staff**

6.1.13 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

7. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

7.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property is **adequate**

7.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is **considerable research** but it is **not directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value**

7.3 - Are results from research programmes publicly available and disseminated?

Research results **are shared** widely **with active outreach** to local communities and national and international audiences

7.4 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

The physical and biological state of the property, its natural hazards and ecological and social carrying capacity are regularly surveyed and monitored by a host of research institutions. The property itself manages some research. The property puts emphasis on effective outreach of research results, f.e. with reports and news on its web page and social media. Work is being done in adding a special research platform on the park web page which will list all research underway and already in process

8. Education, Information and Awareness Building

8.1 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities	Good
Local/municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Fair
Women	Fair
Youth/children	Fair
Researchers	Good
Local visitors	Fair
National/international tourists	Fair
Tourism industry	Fair
Local businesses and industries	Good
NGOs	Fair
Other specific groups	Not applicable
If you selected 'Other specific groups', please describe	

8.2 - Does the property have a heritage education programme(s) for children and/or youth, that can contribute to a better understanding of heritage, promote diversity and foster intercultural dialogue?

There is a planned education and awareness programme for children and/or youth **but it only partly meets the needs**

8.3 - Who are the target audiences for education and awareness programmes at your property?

Local communities
Local/municipal authorities
Landowners
Women
Youth/children
Researchers
Local Visitors
National/international tourists
Tourism industry
Local businesses and industries
NGOs

8.4 - Please rate the adequacy of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property for education, information, interpretation and awareness building

Visitor centre	Fair
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Site museum	Not needed
Information booths	Good
Guided tours	Fair
Trails/routes	Fair
Printed information materials	Fair
Online (website, social media, etc.)	Good
Transportation facilities	Not needed
Other	Not needed
If 'Other' is selected, please specify	

8.5 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

One of the property's main focus is to inform and educate about its values. Two new visitors centers, each with a new exhibition, are in under construction, one in the SW and the other up north. Work is in process on the second version of the property's educational plan, which will be valid 2023-2025.

9. Visitor Management

9.1 - Please provide estimated annual visitor numbers (including national and international visitors) since the last Periodic Report

844.380 / 522.221 / 337.798 / 816.508 / 838.448 /

9.2 - What information sources are used to collect visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys
Other
Vehicles counters

9.3 - What is the average length stay of a visitor to the World Heritage property?

One to three hours

9.4 - Please provide the source of information

9.1. The property is expansive, with many, diverse destinations, in residential and rural areas, as well as uninhabited wilderness areas in the highland. There is no "one entrance" into the property. Visitors numbers are collected in more than dozen areas and destination sites. Information given are from the most visited site within the property (Jokulsarlon in the S region). 9.3. Due to the expansive properties of the property it is difficult to estimate the avg length of visitors stay

9.5 - What is the approximate average daily visitor expenditure? (Please provide an estimated monetary figure in USD)

15 / 8 / 0,6 /

9.6 - Please provide the source of information

All data from the property's 2021 annual account Lodging: Campgrounds in Skaftafell - south Souvenirs: Skaftafell-south Admission: Skaftafell-south Food and beverage: No data. Third parties offering refreshment within the property Recreation fees: No data. Third parties offering all recreation activity

9.7 - Does the management system/plan for the World Heritage property include a strategy with an action plan to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts?

There is a **strategy** to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property but there are **some deficiencies in implementation**

9.8 - Please provide any comments relating to the answer provided above in question 9.7

A private business policy to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property was published in 2019. The policy is being processed and implemented in highly visited areas in the south. The national park is step by step working on processing the policy further in the park as a whole.

9.9 - Is visitor use effectively managed to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **effectively managed and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value**

9.10 - Is the effectiveness of tourism management regularly monitored?

No

If a different system, please specify

9.11 - How does the tourism industry cooperate with the site management to improve visitor experiences and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property?

There is **good cooperation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry **to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation**

9.12 - How well is the information on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted

9.13 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In one location and easily visible to visitors

9.14 - How does visitor/tourism revenue (e.g. entry charges, permits) contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

Fees are collected and make a substantial contribution to the management of the World Heritage property

9.15 - Are there locally driven sustainable tourism initiatives?

Yes

If 'Yes', please specify

Recreation tourism

9.16 - Are the benefits of tourism shared with local communities?

Yes

If 'Yes', please specify

Local companies

9.17 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to visitation/tourism/public use of the World Heritage property

10. Monitoring

10.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property directed towards management needs and/or towards improving the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value?

There is considerable monitoring but it is not directed towards management needs and/or improving the understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

10.2 - Is necessary information available in order to define key indicators for measuring the state of conservation and are they used in monitoring how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is being maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient to define key indicators, but this has not been done

10.3 - Are key indicators defined and in place for the following principal aspects of the property?

	Extend of indicators	Not applicable	No indicators	Indicators have been defined but are not yet in use	Indicators are in place and in use since the last Periodic Reporting cycle
10.3.1	State of conservation				✗
10.3.2	Effectiveness of the management system				✗
10.3.3	Character of governance				✗
10.3.4	Appropriate synergy with other conservation designations				✗
10.3.5	Contribution to sustainable development				✗
10.3.6	Capacity development				✗

10.4 - Please provide information on relevant key indicators adopted at the property

10.3.1. - Implemented management plan, followed with annual work plan 10.3.2 Annual financial report, governmental surveillance 10.3.3 Management and organization built in law (main board, regional boards, park mangers) 10.3.4. Nature and cultural heritage laws in Iceland. Same governmental structure. 10.3.5. Annual sustainable report. 10.3.6. Management plan (3rd vers. 2021), new policy (2021), private business' policy (2016), legal domicile on the country side since 2023 (Hofn).

10.5 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups:

World Heritage managers/coordinators and staff	Fair
Local/municipal authorities	Fair
Local communities	Poor
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Fair
Women	Fair
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
Local businesses and industry	Fair
NGOs	Fair
Other specific groups	Not applicable

If you selected 'Other specific groups', please specify

10.6 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

10.7 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee.

10.8 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to Monitoring

11. Identification of Priority Management Needs

11.1 - Identification of Priority Management Needs

5.1	Boundaries and Buffer Zones	
5.1.3	The property has no buffer zone	
5.1.4	The property has no known and recognised buffer zone	
5.2	Protective Measures	
5.2.4	The property has no buffer zone	X
5.3	Management System/Management Plan	
5.3.7	No use has been made of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties at the property	X
5.3.9	No use has been made of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties at the property	X
6.1	Funding	
6.1.3	The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs of the World Heritage property	X
6.1.7	Human resources partly meet the management needs of the World Heritage property	X
6.1.10	No use has been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Development at the World Heritage property	
6.1.12	A site-based capacity building plan or programme is in place and partially implemented; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, but most technical work is carried out by external staff	
7	Scientific Studies and Research Projects	
7.2	There is considerable research in the World Heritage property but it is not directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value	X
8	Education, Information and Awareness Building	
8.2	There is a planned education and awareness programme for children and/or youth but it only partly meets the needs	X
9	Visitor Management	
9.7	There is a strategy to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property but there are some deficiencies in implementation	X
10	Monitoring	
10.1	There is considerable monitoring at the World Heritage property but it is not directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value	X
10.2	Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient to define key indicators, but this has not been done	

Please select 1 more issues.

Please save this question to reflect changes

12. Summary and Conclusions

12.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

12.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

4.6	Physical resource extraction
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4.6.2	Quarrying	Mining of gabbro in an area that became a part of the National Park in 2017. Work on the provisions for the management plan was in progress during the nomination process of the property. Not a threat to the OUV of the property.	Mining allowed. Exemption clause for quarrying, allowing (continuing) mining in context of weighted public, national, and natural interests.	Surveillance from the road administration, the municipality and the national park	Ongoing temporal and local use.	Road administration. Vatnajökull National Park. Municipality of Hornafjodur.	None
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4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage

4.8.6	Impacts of tourism/Visitation/Recreation	Increase in the number of visitors before the pandemic put a heavy strain on the nature and infrastructure at the most popular sites. Minor effect on attributes.	Measures are regularly taken in enhancing infrastructure, were efficient and/or have turned toward regulatory measures. Monitoring might be more efficient and controlled.	Visitors numbers are known. Annual assessment on effects of tourism in areas of outstanding natural values are performed in a project arranged by the Icelandic Institute of Natural history. More factors could be assessed.	Annual monitoring - ongoing.	Vatnajökull National Park. Icelandic Institute of Natural history, other research centers (local and regional).	None
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4.10 Climate change and severe weather events

4.10.6	Temperature change	Continued climate warming will in the long-term significantly affect a major aspect of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, the Vatnajökull ice cap.	During this melting of the glacier, the property will demonstrate a fascinating universal value as an outdoor laboratory and classroom in glacier and glaciovolcanic dynamics in relation to climate change. Climate change adaptation plan is needed.	Research institutes monitor main attributes (glacier) affected by climate change.	Work on Climate change adaption plan will start no later than 2025.	Vatnajökull National Park. Research institutes (local and regional). Municipalities. Icelandic state.	None.
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4.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species

4.12.2	Invasive/Alien terrestrial species	Lupine fields in the area of Skaftafell might be a threat to geological formation in the area.	Restrain further spread of lupine and up-root older plants. The latter involves a lot of work, time and money.	Increase mapping done by the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland	Ongoing project.	Vatnajökull National Park in cooperation with etc Soil Conservation Service of Iceland	Factor affecting very limited and circumscribed part of the OUV of the property.
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Summary - Factors affecting the Property completed

12.2. Summary - Management Needs

12.2.1 - Summary - Management Needs

5.2	Protective Measures					
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
5.2.4	The property has no buffer zone	In the nomination document, chapter 5b, p. 229, is a detailed argument for why a buffer zone is not needed for the property.	Not applicable.	Vatnajökull National Park.	None.	

5.3 Management System/Management Plan

5.3.7	No use has been made of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties at the property	Start using the Policy Document, etc in the making of Climate change action plan (2025).	Work on Climate change adaption will start no later than 2024.	Vatnajökull National Park.	None.
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5.3.9	No use has been made of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties at the property	Natural hazards & disasters are obviously a persistent threat within the property, but not a threat to the OUV of it. The Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) monitors natural hazards in Iceland.	Not applicable.	Vatnajökull National Park. Icelandic Meteorological Office.	None.
6.1	Funding				
6.1.3	The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs of the World Heritage property	Service fees are becoming a larger part of the total capital. The property also continues to report and inform on governmental level about the funding needs. Consider further funding from commercial activities (e.g. permits and concessions).	Ongoing.	Vatnajökull National Park. Government (Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate).	None.
6.1.7	Human resources partly meet the management needs of the World Heritage property	The property continues to report and inform on governmental level about the funding needs.	Ongoing.	Vatnajökull National Park. Government (Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate).	None.
7	Scientific Studies and Research Projects				
7.2	There is considerable research in the World Heritage property but it is not directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value	See comment to question 7.4. The property considers this form optimal due to good consultation between the property and research institutions.	Ongoing.	Vatnajökull National Park. Research institutes (local and regional).	None.
8	Education, Information and Awareness Building				
8.2	There is a planned education and awareness programme for children and/or youth but it only partly meets the needs	The educational plan already involves children educational outreach. More efficient implementation goes in hand with increased human resources, time and funding.	Current educational plan is being updated into second version (1. version published 2018). New version will be valid until 2025.	Vatnajökull National Park	none
9	Visitor Management				
9.7	There is a strategy to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property but there are some deficiencies in implementation	Making of an efficient and strategic monitoring plan to manage visitors and tourism activity.	2026	Vatnajökull National Park and cooperation with research institutes, the Tourist Board of Iceland and specialist as needed.	None
10	Monitoring				

10.1	There is considerable monitoring at the World Heritage property but it is not directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value	See comment to question 7.4. The property considers this form optimal due to good consultation between the property and research institutions.	Effective monitoring plan 2026.	Vatnajökull National Park. Research institutes (local and regional).	None.
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Summary - Management Needs completed

12.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

12.3.1 - Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of Authenticity of the World Heritage property?

The Authenticity of the World Heritage property **has been preserved**

12.3.2 - Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of Integrity of the World Heritage property?

The Integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

12.3.3 - Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

12.3.4 - What is the current state of the property's other values?

Other important cultural and/or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **intact**

12.3.5 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to the state of conservation of the property.

13. Impact of World Heritage Status

13.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Very positive
Management effectiveness	Very positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Very positive
Recognition	Very positive
Education	Very positive
Infrastructure development	Very positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Very positive
Legal/Policy framework	Very positive
Advocacy	Very positive
Institutional coordination	Very positive
Security	Very positive
Gender equality	Very positive
Provision of ecosystem services/ benefits to local communities	Very positive
Social inclusion and equity, and improvement of opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status	Very positive
Fostering inclusive local economic development and enhancing livelihood	Very positive
Contributing to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around heritage properties	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable
If 'Other', please specify	

13.2 - Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to World Heritage status and its impacts

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 property level

14.2 - Define which topics are covered by this example of best practice at the property level

15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

15.1. Relevance of Periodic Reporting

15.1.1 - Has the Periodic Reporting process improved the understanding of the following?

The <i>World Heritage Convention</i>	
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value	
The property's Outstanding Universal Value	
The concept of Integrity and/or Authenticity	
The property's Integrity and/or Authenticity	
Management effectiveness to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value	
Monitoring and reporting	

15.1.2 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

State Party	Not needed
Site Managers	Not needed
UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Not needed
Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM)	Not needed

15.2. Use of Data

15.2.1 - How do the authorities in charge of the property plan to use the data recorded from this cycle of Periodic Reporting?

Fundraising	
Awareness raising	
Other	
Increase monitoring.	

15.2.2 - Comments on use of data from the Cycle of Periodic Reporting

15.3. Timing and resources

15.3.1 - Entities involved in the filling out of this online questionnaire (tick as many boxes as applicable)

Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage	
Site Manager/Coordinator World Heritage property staff	

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

Gender balance is explicitly considered and effectively implemented in the process.

15.3.3 - Were you given adequate time (i.e. roughly ten months) to gather necessary information and to fill in this questionnaire?

Yes

15.3.4 - Please estimate the time (working hours) needed to complete this questionnaire

16 / 0 / 80 /

15.3.5 - Did you mobilise any additional resources to fill out this questionnaire?

	Additional resources	No	Yes
15.3.5.1	Human resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.3.5.2	Financial resources for organizing consultation meetings/ training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15.4. Format and content of the Periodic Report

15.4.1 - How accessible was the information required to complete this questionnaire?

All required information was accessible.

15.4.2 - Was the questionnaire easy to use and clear to understand?

		Very Difficult	Difficult	Easy	Very easy
15.4.2.1	Ease of use of questionnaire			X	
15.4.2.2	Clarity of questions			X	

15.4.3 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

15.5. Training and Guidance

15.5.1 - Please rate the level of support in terms of training and guidance from the following entities in completing this questionnaire

UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Not applicable
UNESCO (other sectors/field offices)	Good
UNESCO National Commission	Not applicable
ICOMOS International	Not applicable
IUCN International	Not applicable
ICCROM international/regional	Not applicable
ICOMOS national/regional	Not applicable
IUCN national/regional	Not applicable

15.5.2 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Reporting questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Not applicable
State Party Representative (national Focal Point)	Not applicable
UNESCO other sectors (e.g. field office)	Good
National Commission for UNESCO	Not applicable
ICOMOS International	Not applicable
ICCROM International/regional	Not applicable
ICOMOS national/regional	Not applicable
IUCN national/regional	Not applicable
IUCN International	Not applicable

15.5.3 - Were the online training resources prepared by the World Heritage Centre regarding Periodic Reporting adequate for you to complete this questionnaire?

Not applicable (i.e. I did not use these resources)

15.5.4 - If you found that the online training resources were not adequate, what changes would you like to see implemented?

15.6. Actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

15.6.1 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

No item were proposed for update

15.7. Comments, conclusions and/or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

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

15.7.2 - Thank you for having filled in all the questions. Please contact your National Focal Point for validation.