



Institutul Național al
Patrimoniului

Ministerul Culturii



Roșia Montană

Mining Landscape

(1552 rev. Romania)

State of Conservation Report

[in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the
Operational Guidelines]

January 2025

1. Executive Summary of the Report

The property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2021 - and simultaneously inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger – Decision 44 COM 8C.1. State of Conservation Reports were provided in January 2022, 2023 and March 2024.

A DSOCR – Desired State of Conservation to be reached to allow the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger – was produced after a thorough consultation process between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, and State Party representatives in 2022 and 2023. The DSOCR was adopted by the Committee at its extended 45th Session in 2023 – Decision 45 COM 7A.56. At its 46 Session in 2024 the Committee adopted Decision 46 COM 7A.2 in which it is welcoming the decision of the World Bank’s International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of 8 March 2024 to dismiss Gabriel Resources’ arbitration claim against the Government of Romania, is also welcoming the activation of the Management Committee and the progress made in the implementation of the established DSOCR measures and is encouraging the State Party to include in the Management Plan an archaeological research plan.

The State Party is working constantly for the implementation of the DSOCR corrective measures. Progress has been made since the simultaneous inscription on the World Heritage List and In-danger List. This includes establishment and activation of the Management Committee, initiation of the elaboration of the General Urban Plan (ongoing), the revision of the Property Management Plan (final reviews), constant improving of the state of conservation of some of the supporting attributes, general enhancement of the visitor experience, including the Roman galleries of the Mining Museum, improving accessibility and water quality.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

While all actions developed are following the objectives of the World Heritage Committee Decision for inscription in 2021 – 44 COM 8C.1 – this SOC report is addressing the two most recent Decisions of the World Heritage Committee – 45 COM 7A.56, for the approval of the DSOCR and 46 COM 7A.2.

All actions in response to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee are timetabled, together with responsibilities and suggested indicators, as detailed in the documents submitted to the Centre and the Advisory Body during the consultation process. Such actions were also included as main priorities in the revision of the Property Management Plan.

The following table presents the main developments in the implementation of the DSOCR corrective measures:

Desired state of conservation	Corrective Measures - Summary	Timeframe for delivering Corrective Measures	Updates and developments
<p>1. Approval of mining permits at the property halted</p>	<p>Halting approval of unadjusted mining activities at the property.</p>	<p>Not defined. No action during arbitration</p>	<p>1. (ICSID) On March the 8th 2024, the international arbitral tribunal has notified the award in ICSID case no. ARB/15/31. According to its operative part, Romania has not violated the provisions of the agreements on the promotion and mutual guarantee of investments concluded with the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.¹</p> <p>2. (Romania) <u>The concession license for mining exploitation terminated automatically on June the 20th, 2024, following non-extension by the National Agency for Mineral Resources – ANRMPSG.</u></p> <p>3. (ICSID) The arbitral award was challenged by Gabriel Resources Ltd. (Canadian), Gabriel Resources (Jersey) (British) through an action for annulment on the 12th of July 2024.</p> <p>4. (Romania) The non-extension by ANRMPSG of the concession license for mining exploitation was challenged by Roşia Montană Gold Corporation - RMGC through a preliminary complaint filed on July the 24th, 2024. A case is currently pending before a national court.</p> <p>5. (Romania) September 2024 - initiation of preliminary proceedings (the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Rosia Montana Mining Project, updated surveys etc.) for the handover of the mining perimeter by RMGC to ANRMPSG.</p>
<p>2. Planning controls developed and implemented that address the prevention of any activities, including mining, which have the potential to negatively impact the attributes of OUV</p>	<p>Planning controls approved and implemented that address the prevention of any activity, including mining, that has the potential to negatively impact</p>	<p>2026</p>	<p>The cooperation agreement signed between the Ministry for Development, Public Works and Administration (MDLPA), Municipality of Roşia Montană, Alba County Council and the National Institute of Heritage that establishes their specific role in the process of elaboration and implementation of the</p>

¹ The award of the tribunal is available here: http://icsidfiles.worldbank.org/icsid/ICSIDBLOBS/OnlineAwards/C4706/DS19558_En.pdf

Desired state of conservation	Corrective Measures - Summary	Timeframe for delivering Corrective Measures	Updates and developments
	the attributes of OUV.		<p>General Urban Plan (PUG), was operationalized in the second half of 2024. The four institutions steadily met and cooperate for the collection of the relevant data, the preliminary documentation and the specifications needed for the initiation of the PUG according with the Convention requirements and the Committee specific decisions.</p> <p>MDLPA ensured the necessary internal procedure and allocated a budget of approx. 400.000 EUR for 2025. The launch of the public procurement procedure is estimated for q2 2025 (national elections at the end of 2024 and the change of the Government, caused some delays in relation with the initial estimated schedule) and a support group will be organized in order to assist the public consultation of the elaboration process.</p>
3. Management committee established	Establish a Management Committee	Completed	The Management Committee became operational in October 2023 and increased its activity in 2024. It is steadily consolidating its role in coordinating all stakeholder actions for the protection of the property. Its main specific challenge is to finalize, approve and implement the Property Management Plan, revised in 2024 by the National Institute of Heritage.
4. Management Plan revised and strengthened in relation to mining issues	Revise and strengthen the Property Management Plan that addresses the prevention of any activity, including mining, that has the potential to negatively impact the attributes of OUV	2024	Revision of the Property Management Plan was implemented within the National Institute of Heritage, taking into full account the WH Committee Decisions and the inputs of the newly formed Management Committee and the relevant national and local actors. It is expected to be finalized and approved by the Management Committee in the first half of 2025.
5. Polluted mine water discharge from the main drainage adit mitigated	Measures to address the issue of polluted mine water discharge from the main drainage adit	2026	The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests / National Waters Administration have undertaken recurring water quality assessments since inscription. Their reports and proposals for mitigation scenarios are connected with the PUG specifications and conditions. The Mayor's office has an ongoing already contracted project (approx. 2 mil. Euro) for the establishment/modernisation of the drinking water network, domestic sewerage and also a wastewater treatment plant.

Desired state of conservation	Corrective Measures - Summary	Timeframe for delivering Corrective Measures	Updates and developments
<p>6. Inspection and maintenance plan for the 18th/19th century header ponds developed</p>	<p>Developing an inspection and maintenance plan for the 18th/19th century header ponds</p>	<p>2027</p>	<p>Following the emergency situation at Tăul Mare header pond and the improvements in road infrastructure the Mayor's office budget proposals for 2025 include the necessary studies and technical proposals for future interventions in order to ensure the safety and the conservation of the entire ensemble of the historic header ponds as well as a system of monitoring and maintenance. Identifying the issues and elaborating a dedicated state of conservation report are in preparation in connection with the elaboration of the PUG. An inspection and maintenance plan are to be integrated into the Property Management Plan.</p>

In addition to the above corrective measures updates and developments we are currently addressing the recommendation added in the last Committee Decision - 46 COM 7A.2 – “to include in the Management Plan, as part of its reassessment of the Roman archaeological sites, an archaeological research plan to guide future work on existing sites and on future survey work to clarify what further surface and underground mining, ore processing and settlement sites of the Roman period remain”. This is to be correlated with and is also depending on the ongoing preliminary procedures (including updated surveys) that are being done for the handover of the mining perimeter by RMGC to ANRMPSG. The future regaining of the administration of the underground by the Romanian authorities will allow for an adequate archaeological research plan to be formulated. As a preliminary action, a series of experts and scholars were contacted to establish an expert working group capable of producing an informed and effective research plan to be integrated into the Property Management Plan.

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

Some of the state of conservation issues concerning supporting heritage elements within the property – such as houses, churches, header ponds from the 18th- and 19th-century etc. – are being currently addressed. These, while of a much later phase and not directly attributed to OUV, are nonetheless important in the presentation of the continuity of the property's wider mining heritage. They also contribute to the visitor experience and definitely to the wellbeing of the local community. All were thoroughly presented in the last SOC reports in 2023 and 2024 and we are now updating the information as follows:

- the Ministry of Culture, through the National Institute of Heritage, is continuing conservation works on built heritage, within its two main funding instruments: the National Restoration Programme (PNR approx. 2.2 million EUR), and the Historic Monuments Stamp Duty programme (TMI approx. 280,000 EUR in the former exercise to which an additional 2,077,322 EUR were added in the current exercise). One of the two complex ongoing conservation and restoration projects within the PNR – the Greek-catholic parish house – was finalized in April 2024 while the second one progressed substantially and is scheduled for reception in the third quarter of 2025, depending on the weather conditions.

Besides the 13 maintenance conservation and restoration works and design implemented within TMI – churches, houses and also repairs and presentation works for the Roman galleries of the Mining Museum – completed in 2023 following a call for projects launched immediately after inscription, the TMI calls in 2024 resulted in three more projects being contracted: the restoration works for the house of the Cantor of the Unitarian church as well as for the historic cinema and the restoration project for the Greek-catholic church.
- Repairs and conservation works for 8 historic buildings, financed by the Ministry of European Investments and Projects, through the National Resilience and Recovery Plan (PNRR) started in 2023 and are continuing with a progress of 20 to 75% of the total works, depending on each particular situation. The buildings are owned by local administration and churches, and the budget for each building is set to max. 65,000 EUR, totalling an approx. 500,000 EUR for Roşia Montana. This is included in the PNRR sub-programme *Route of villages with traditional architecture* within the *Attractive Romania* Programme which also integrates a strong online component for the presentation and enhancement of the included villages and sites.
- There are other heritage interventions, carried out by professional and/or local NGOs (in progress) as part of a larger community program ('Adopt a House') financed both from private donations and grants offered by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund (AFCN) and the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR) through the architectural stamp duty (total campaign budget of approx. 80,000 EUR in the past 2 years; pending approvals for further grants). The most recent works include the restoration of the Calvin Church (finished during the 2024 campaign) as well as emergency interventions at the Roman-catholic chapel, the former casino etc. (ongoing).
- Road infrastructure improvements financed through the PNLD - National Local Development Programme – as well as the *Anghel Saligny* National Investments Programme and co-financed by the Roşia Montană Municipality, were approved by specialized bodies of the Ministry of Culture and are ongoing – total budget of approx. 3,816,917 EUR – and scheduled to be finalized in December 2026. These have special provisions for archaeological remains and landscape authenticity protection and will significantly improve accessibility. The project also covers historic roads in the World Heritage property and was developed with the assistance of the National Institute of Heritage.

- The process for elaborating the strategy for heritage interpretation and presentation was started through the efforts of the National Institute of Heritage and two interpretive agents, members of the local community, by participating in a pilot-project focused on the interpretation of Rosia Montana Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. The strategy will focus on communicating the meaning and values both for cultural and natural heritage, on the stories of different communities – local, regional, national and international and on the involvement of the local community in interpretation through storytelling events and trainings. Part of the Learning Landscape Initiative, developed by Interpret Europe in partnership with UNESCO Venice Regional Office, the pilot-project is being implemented between October 2024 and December 2025 after a methodology elaborated for UNESCO designated sites. . Part of the project was integrated in an application elaborated by Roşia Montană World Heritage Association, which was selected for co-funding by the Administration of National Cultural Fund within the call for projects dedicated to immovable and movable heritage. For full funding, the National Institute of Heritage has initiated a partnership with Alba County Council.
- Four associations - Association 37 in partnership with SNK Association, Roşia Montană World Heritage Association and InfomART Association - together with ‘Simion Balint’ Secondary School and other NGOs and specialists are implementing since April 2024, together with the local community, an environmental education project for the Property: ‘Clean Waters in Roşia Montană’.

The main activities included: educational activities on the importance of recycling and its correct practice and the protection of the biodiversity of the Property; art and creative writing; organizing cultural events for and with the community; five clean-up campaigns along the watercourses and at header ponds ~~and~~; five selective waste collection systems built; setting up an environmental library in the hall of the secondary school; round tables organised with the local authorities - town hall, local collector, environmental protection guard - with the aim of creating a community alliance between institutions, organisations, informal leaders and local people for better management of waste resulting from the human activities and minimising the amount of waste that ends up in the commune's waters. With the help of mentors, the children learnt about the impact of micro-plastics in nature, learnt about water composition and how to analyse water with water testing kits. Thanks to the environmental education kit and the materials donated by project partners to the environmental library, pupils and teachers will be able to integrate the knowledge they have learnt into their lessons.

4.

In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

None. This topic is being currently addressed within the elaboration of the Urban Regulations in the General Urban Plan (PUG) as well as in the Property Management Plan. Provisions regarding the use of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) are being introduced in the PUG in order to control interventions with potential impact upon the OUV.

The introduction of HIA as a mandatory procedure within the national legislation in the fields of construction, urban planning and natural and cultural heritage protection is also envisaged at the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and is being discussed currently with key partners such as Ministry of Development (MDLPA), Ministry of Environment (MMAEP) and other relevant stakeholders.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

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

6. Signature of the Authority

Natalia Elena Intotero
Minister of Culture