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science et la culture*



***World Heritage Centre***

**Reactive Monitoring Joint Mission**

**The Curonian Spit (Lithuania, Russian Federation)**

**04<sup>th</sup> December - 09<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

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**REPORT ON THE MISSION TO THE CURONIAN SPIT (n° 994)**  
**(Lithuania and the Russian Federation)**  
**FROM 04<sup>th</sup> December TO 09<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The mission would like to warmly thank Lithuania and the Russian Federation for the welcome received. The friendly climate that prevailed during the visits and meetings allowed the mission to obtain a good and overall view of the values, state of conservation and questions concerning the Curonian Spit.

In particular, the mission acknowledges the help received from the representatives of the two States Parties (Ministries of Environment of Lithuania and the Russian Federation, Ministry of Economic Development of Russia), the National Commissions for UNESCO, the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park, the Kursiu Nerija National Park, the Regional Government of Kaliningrad, the Municipalities Neringa and Zelenogradsk, the Special Economic Zone Project in Kurshskaja Kosa National Park, the Non Governmental Organisations, Ecodefence and Greenpeace Russia.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The World Heritage property Curonian Spit faces some major problems. Some of them are related directly to natural phenomena such as strong storms that contribute to the erosion of the fore-dunes of the Baltic shore. Recent scientific observations confirm that the frequency of high speed winds has grown since the last five years. The consequence is that the two National Parks have to enhance the means dedicated to the restoration works.

Other problems are related to the tourism pressure that is on the rise on the Curonian Spit. The only road crossing from Zelenogradsk (Russian Federation) to Smiltynė (Lithuania) is crowded during the high tourist season. As another consequence, on the Lithuanian part there emerged a housing issue which is related to rising prices of holiday homes. In the Russian part of the property the planned Special Economic Zone project is another issue which could lead to the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value of the cultural landscape.

Last but not least the problem lies in the joint management plan for the World Heritage property. Although some efforts are being made, the Curonian Spit still lacks a joint management plan. Concerning the overall management of the area, the relations between the two National Parks and the three Municipalities need to be significantly improved by specific mechanisms. The two States Parties need to decide very rapidly to develop main joint management plans (general management plan, tourist management plan, traffic management plan) in order to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value for which the Curonian Spit Cultural Landscape was inscribed.

The recommendations below have been prepared in order to help the State Party of Lithuania and the State Party of the Russian Federation to develop together a joint and comprehensive policy.

The mission recommendations include:

1. That the proposed four Leisure Complexes in the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park, which include a conference hall for 600 people, hotels and luxury apartments for over a 1,000 people together with a parking area for 350 cars, restaurants, shops, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc., should not be constructed because of adverse impact of the projects' scale and scope on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
2. That the designation of the "The Tourist and Recreational Zone of the Curonian Spit" established by the Russian Federal Government's Decision No 73 of 3 February 2007 should be reconsidered as it is not in conformity with the protection of the property i.e. its designation as a national park and as inscribed on the World Heritage List.
3. That the delineation of the settlements should be carried out in order to define areas for houses and gardens that do not impact on the landscape.
4. That planning regulations need to be established by the regional authorities and the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park authorities for the overall development of the property in the Russian Federation which might identify appropriate areas for small scale sustainable tourism development.
5. That any new construction, except those related to security and information, related to tourist information and heritage interpretation and awareness-raising be banned on the fore-dunes and the dunes.
6. That the two States Parties prepare a draft joint management plan developing a joint vision and a platform of joint actions for the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (2012) to be reviewed and approved by each State Party. This document will lead to the comprehensive joint management plan for the Curonian Spit to be prepared by 2013 and approved for the entire Curonian Spit.
7. That the systems for detection and defence against fires be included in the agreement between the transboundary parks in the two parts of the property. The mission also recommends that the 150 ha of burnt territory at Smyltinė be carefully monitored in order to observe the natural process of biological regeneration for measuring the dynamics and trends of the site, as well as the risks of increase of invasive species which could lead to imperceptible changes to the landscape.
8. That the two States Parties compare lists of species in the two parts of the Curonian Spit since its inscription on the World Heritage List in order to have a complete view of the trends and dynamics of the environment as these possibly indicate the ongoing evolution of the landscape. The observations in both parts of the property might also help to discover possible differences in the management processes that should be addressed before the preparation of the joint management plan.

9. That the threatened species of flora and fauna are monitored and the factors (natural or artificial) which play a role in the conservation of these species be analysed. This analysis should serve as a basis for preparing the proper actions which should be included in the joint management plan.
10. That the Kursiu Nerija National Park be involved in every project concerning the development of the Klaipeda harbour in order to work out joint solutions so that no irreversible changes would damage or lead to a loss of the site's Outstanding Universal Value.
11. That the climatic changes be carefully monitored and recorded.
12. That the budgets dedicated to the reparations of the fore-dunes be increased for both National Parks.
13. That a comprehensive joint tourist management plan be prepared for the Curonian Spit as a whole (Lithuanian and Russian parts) during 2011 and 2012. This plan should be available for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session of the (2013).
14. That the Russian Federation prepare as soon as possible, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as already prepared by Lithuania, in view of the submission of the joint Statement by the two States Parties.
15. That a joint, specific traffic management plan be established, including a complete assessment of the traffic generated by the different kinds of tourism during the different times of year. This plan should also assess whether free shuttle services may reduce some of the congestion and/or use of private vehicles on the main road along the Spit.
16. In order to contribute to an improved working atmosphere for the National Parks staff, who are often considered too restrictive by holiday makers, it is recommended that seminars or conferences be organized on a regular, yearly basis on various themes, with the goal to educate the visitors about the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, its fragility, the important role of the National Parks personnel in safeguarding its values, etc. to lessen the friction and help to better preserve the property.
17. That a buffer zone be defined and established for the whole property, in relation with the zoning and regulations of the two National Parks.
18. That the State Party of Lithuania carefully consider the issue of housing through developing a peer review of the question and preparing an adequate policy for resolving this issue in relation to the local socio-economic situation and the conservation of the site's Outstanding Universal Value.
19. That the States Parties in their reports on the state of conservation of the property sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre provide information on all developments regarding the water and underwater areas, including by taking into account the prospect of oil.

## **1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION**

### **1.1 Inscription history**

The World Heritage transnational property of the Curonian Spit was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 (24th session of the World Heritage Committee, Cairns, Australia, 27 November - 02 December 2000).

### **1.2 Inscription criteria and World Heritage values**

The Curonian Spit nomination, jointly prepared by the Government of Lithuania and the Government of the Russian Federation, provides the following justification for its designation as a World Heritage transnational cultural property:

Criterion (v): The Curonian Spit is an outstanding example of a landscape of sand dunes that is under constant threat from natural forces (wind and tide). After disastrous human interventions that menaced its survival the Spit was reclaimed by massive protection and stabilization works begun in the 19th century and still continuing to the present day.

### **1.3 Integrity issues raised in the evaluation report at time of inscription**

In the opinion of ICOMOS, the Curonian Spit qualifies for inscription on the World Heritage List under cultural criteria v. However, it was noted that the management plans for the two components of the nominated property should be harmonized and integrated before it can be inscribed. It is especially important that an effective joint tourism management plan be implemented. To ensure the proper management of the entire Spit, a joint consultative commission should be set up, operating in the same way as the Franco-Spanish commission for the World Heritage property: "Pyrénées - Mont Perdu".

### **1.4 Examination of the state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau**

The state of conservation of the Property has been examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd and 34th sessions, the 25th and 26th session of the Bureau, and the 25th extraordinary session of the Bureau.

### **1.5 Justification of the mission (terms of reference, itinerary, program and composition of mission team)**

The documents providing justification of the mission are provided in:

- annex 6.1: Terms of reference
- annex 6.2: Itinerary and program
- annex 6.3: Composition of mission team

## **2. NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

### **2.1 Protected area legislation**

The national parks of Lithuania are governed by the Law on Protected Areas adopted by the Parliament of 9 November 1993 (N° 1-301), modified on 4 December 2001.

The national parks of the Russian Federation are governed by the law on Specially Protected Natural Areas adopted by the Federal Parliament of 14 March 1995.

### **2.2 Institutional framework**

The entire Curonian Spit is protected in the form of two National Parks.

The Lithuanian part is made up of the National Park "Kursiu Nerija", created by decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania n° I -1224 on 23 April 1991.

The Russian part is made up of the National Park of "Kurshskaja Kosa", created by resolution of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR n° 423 on 6 November 1987, as amended in 1995.

Since 2008, an Agreement on cooperation between the Curonian Spit National Park in the Russian Federation and the Kursiu Nerija National Park in Lithuania has been in place.

### **2.3 Management structure**

Both National Parks are State properties.

The Lithuanian Park (Kursiu Nerija) is managed by its own administration, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Forests and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment. There is a territorial management plan for the Curonian Spit. The specific management plan for the Kursiu Nerija NP includes provisions for the protection, rational use, and restoration of the cultural heritage and landscape and for insuring the continuity of architectural traditions in developing settlements.

The Management of the Russian Park takes place at two levels. The overall responsibility is with the Federal Forestry Service which works through the Forest Administration of the Kaliningrad Region. The General Development of the Kurshskaja NP of 1989 sets out measures for conservation, control and use of the Park, as well as for scientific research projects.



Both Parks have clearly defined zones. The zoning categories are:

- Strict Nature Reserves
- Limited access zones
- Recreation zones
- Settlements
- Agricultural zones

These are also surrounded by buffer zones.

## **2.4 Response to the recognition of values under international treaties and programmes (World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, Biosphere Reserve, Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, etc.)**

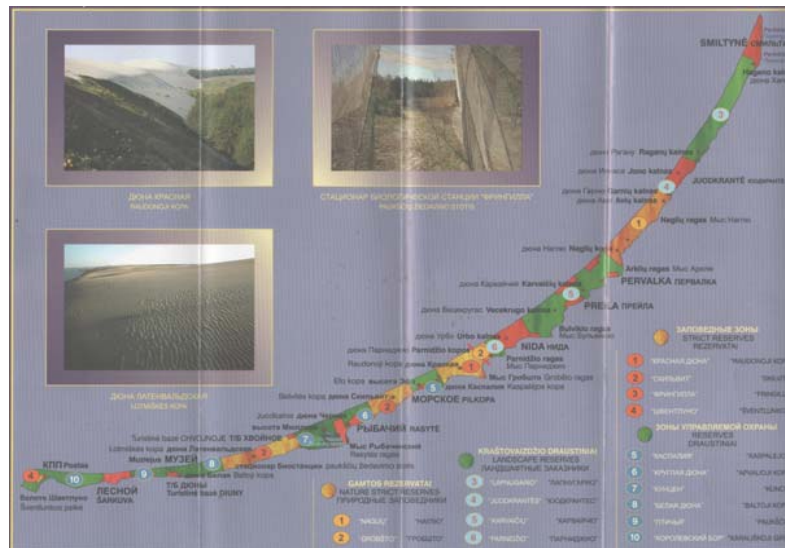
The Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation have prepared a joint nomination for the Curonian Spit Cultural Landscape as a trans-boundary property, including the two National Parks. The World Heritage Committee decided its inscription in 2000 (24th session, Cairns, Australia).

## **3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS**

### **3.1 Management effectiveness for the whole Property**

The two National Parks have Management Plans, as well as the Municipalities, whose territories are included in the property. As stressed in the joint ICOMOS-IUCN advisory mission to the Lithuanian part (July 2009), these management plans do not however make up for the lack of a coherent vision and organisation of the conservation and management of the World Heritage Site as a whole. They may even lead to some differences towards approaches and interests about the values within the World Heritage site of the Curonian Spit, e.g. conservation of the buildings, questions of forests plantations, touristic developments.

The management of the World Heritage site should have a joint document providing a comprehensive overview and a joint policy. The basis for such a joint document could be a joint zoning plan that would define the uses for the different areas of the two National Parks.



**Leaflet edited by the 2 National Parks, showing the different categories of areas**

In order to respect the different existing documents and their duration, it would be useful to first develop a framework document that lists the similarities and differences of the existing documents, Parks and Municipalities. Such a document would give the minimum and common denominator for a joint policy concerning the whole of the Curonian Spit. The differences discovered could be used for analysing the reasons for them and for looking for the solutions how to reduce them. Once this first step is completed, it would be possible to create a joint management plan acceptable for the Parks as well as the Municipalities.

**The mission recommends that the two States Parties propose the first draft of a joint management plan developing a joint vision and a platform of joint actions for the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee (2012). This document could lead to the comprehensive joint management plan for the Curonian Spit to be prepared in 2013.**

### **3.2 Nature and extent of threats to the property, taking into consideration the values for which the property was inscribed and the specific issues outlined by the World Heritage Committee**

#### **3.2.1 Proposed Development of Leisure Complexes**

The main concern of the mission was the proposed series of leisure complexes in the Zelenogradsk part of the Curonian Spit, according to the Russian Federal Government's Decision No 73 of 3 February 2007.

The municipality of Zelenogradsk consists of the town of the same name as well as rural settlement on the Spit. The Spit is a National Park, but the demarcations between the settlements and the protected natural or culturally influenced landscape features of the National Park appear not to have been clearly defined. This is at least the case at Ribachiy where the inhabitants are gardening in the

area which is commonly considered to be part of the meadow that is an important part of the National Park.

The authorities believe that the building of these four leisure complexes could solve some of the present day problems of littering, congestion on the main road of the Spit, visitors putting up tents in the woods etc. The building project would also offer the possibility of better infrastructure for the heating, mains, electricity etc. to the picturesque settlements that still lack them in various degrees.

The season, early December, was, however, not favourable for the mission. Daylight hours are few at that time of the year in the northern countries, and it had been snowing heavily in the days before the visit. Some of the features that it would have been good to check on were buried in snow.

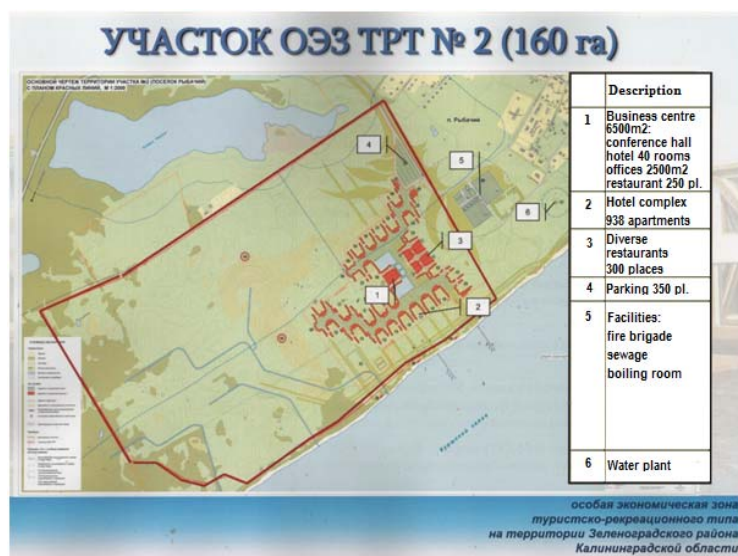
The Russian Federation has decided to create Special Economic Zones (Federal Law n°116 FZ issued on July 22, 2005). There are currently 15 federal economic zones in the Russian Federation, including Kaliningrad Region as a Tourist Zone. The 15 existing and future federal special economic zones are managed by the Open Joint Stock Company "Special Economic Zones". OJSC "SEZ" was founded in 2006 to accumulate and implement the world's best practices in developing and managing Special Economic Zones and promoting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Russian economy. As of March 2010 the federal Special Economic Zones in the Russian Federation host 207 investors from 18 countries. It is fully owned and funded by the Russian state.

On 22 March 2001 a new "Federal Target Program of Economic and Social Development of the Kaliningrad Region for the Period Till 2010" was discussed. The focus was on the development of the transport and infrastructure sector, the operation of an energy complex, the improvement of a telecommunications infrastructure, **the development of a tourist and recreational complex**, the solving of ecological problems and the improvement of the social sector.

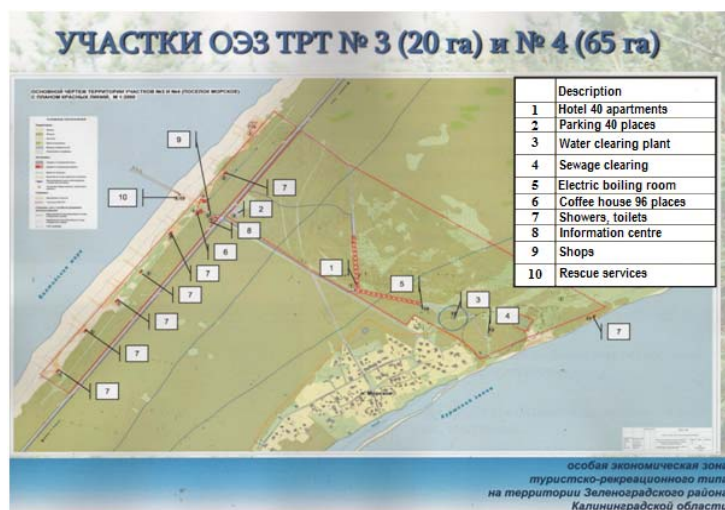
The Tourist and Recreational Complex Project is proposed to be established in the Curonian Spit World Heritage Site and the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park with 4 different areas.



Special Economic Zone Area n°1



Special Economic Zone Area n°2



Special Economic Zone Areas n°3 and n°4

The total area affected would be of 282 ha (Area n°1: 37 ha; Area n°2: 160 ha; Area n°3: 20 ha; Area n°4: 65 ha). Two would be located on the Baltic coast (Areas n°1 and n° 3/4) and two on the lagoon shore (Areas n°2 and n°3/4).

The areas would welcome a set of facilities such as parking lots (1000 places), accommodations (1200 rooms/apartments), restaurants and coffee shops (550 seats) and a business centre (6500 m<sup>2</sup>).

The proposed project is divided into four parts:

#### **Area n°1**

Area n°1 is situated on the Baltic Sea.

It is foreseen to build there a car park, a hotel with 15 rooms, shops, a café, an area for renting bicycles and water sports equipment, and a gas heating centre.

#### **Area n°2**

Area n°2 is situated on the Lagoon, next to the Ribachiy village.

It is foreseen that it includes a conference hall for 600 persons, a hotel with 938 luxury apartments, another one with 40 rooms, a parking area for 350 cars, restaurants, shops, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc.

#### **Areas n°3 and n°4**

Areas n°3 and n°4 straddle the Spit. One part of the facilities is on the Baltic Sea and the other part on the Lagoon. It includes a hotel with 40 rooms, shops, a café, an information centre, a parking area for 40 cars, etc.

- The proposed complexes would have an adverse impact on the dunes. The struggle of repairing them already now stretches the resources of the National Parks staff to the utmost.
- The visit to the Ribachiy village showed that the proposed enormous complex would totally dwarf it.
- It is further to be noted that in order to account for the traffic generated by the people staying in the over a thousand rooms, quite a lot of tarmac roads, urban style lighting, lorries bringing food products, would be necessary, all of which would lead to a definite loss of the peaceful atmosphere on the Spit which is one of the reasons why visitors come there and find solace in that special area.

The very large hotel complex would be built at Ribachiy, about four kilometres from the nearest beach at the Baltic. That means that hundreds of cars would be continuously on the roads as the visitors staying in the nearly 1000 luxury apartments would certainly wish to spend time on the beach. (The mission was informed that people do not wish to swim in the Lagoon.)

This type of leisure project conflicts with the obligation to protect the Spit for its unique cultural values, i.e. the very reasons it was inscribed for on the World Heritage List.

The project consists of the tourist complexes with enormous “carbon foot prints”. For instance, all food and drinks consumed there would need to be brought from the mainland, which would lead to more congestion and pollution. According to the pictures, the proposed buildings stand in leafy, park like settings. It is unclear how such trees would grow on the Spit where the ground consists mainly of drift sand. It is possible to grow them but only by bringing in tons of earth to the Spit which could possibly bring in invasive plants and bacteria. Yet, the creation of such an artificial environment does not seem to be an ecologically sound proposition. It is equally questionable that fresh water be drilled or pumped for these plantations and for the fountains and pools shown in the pictures.

The littering, trespassing and congestions on the roads during holiday time shown in the “Photofacta” pictures in the brochures given to the participants of the meeting at Zelenogradsk are not limited to the Spit alone. This may be alleviated and controlled by other means than by building on either the very fragile fore-dunes or in the neighbourhood of the old settlement at Ribachiy. Ribachiy would be totally dwarfed by the size of the leisure complex, and the fore-dunes destroyed.

There are no planning zones or planning regulations on the Russian part of the Spit. The areas of the settlements are not defined either. The project “The Tourist and Recreational Zone of the Curonian Spit” established by the Russian Federal Government's Decision No 73 of 3 February 2007 did not therefore need any planning permission. The liabilities of the Russian Federation, Russian Federation subjects and local authorities have been defined in Agreement No 2777-GG/F7 “On the Establishment of a Tourist and Recreation Special Economic Zone in the Zelenogradsk District of the Kaliningrad Region”.

The whole of the Spit in the Russian Federation is included in the Zelenogradsk District that also consists of the town of Zelenogradsk as well as of further areas on the mainland. According to the representatives of Zelenogradsk District who were present at the meeting on the 6 December 2011 in the town of Zelenogradsk they have no say in the aforementioned project, but they welcome it because of the economic advantages it is believed to bring to the region as well as better infrastructure for the settlements on the Spit (see below). However, “The establishment of the TR SEZ in the Kaliningrad Region is forming an auspicious environment for active development of the tourist sector.

The project is contested by local and national non-governmental organisations for the following four main reasons:

- the size of the project is not adequate to the territory,
- the territory will not bear the impact of such a large number of tourists,
- an integrated project using traditional restored buildings would be more adequate and contribute towards the conservation of the heritage values,

- some important elements of the landscape would disappear (the marsh and meadow of Rybachi) as well as some important species (such as *Linnaea borealis*, *Botrychium simplex*, *Lunaria rediviva*...).

In the meeting organized during the joint monitoring mission the representatives of the Russian Federal Ministry of Economic Development and of the Special Economic Zone of Kaliningrad stressed the importance of a better organization of the tourist development in the area. They also indicated that the project is not finalised and that a discussion with a specific working group could be proposed.

These potential tourism projects graphically highlight the weak protection arrangements for the Spit in the Russian Federation. The creation of an economic development zone within the property conflicts with the purpose of the National Park and with the obligations to protect the cultural landscapes of the dunes, for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. It seems that the World Heritage status of the property is not clearly reflected in the Kurshkaja Kosa National Park policy, which should be addressed as soon as possible.

**The designation of the economic zone and the subsequent proposals for the four large-scale leisure complexes present a very real threat to the integrity and authenticity of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value**

**The Mission recommends that these leisure complexes should not be built and that permission for the economic zones be reviewed.**

**The Mission also recommends that as a matter of urgency an overall tourism, management Plan should be developed for the whole of the Spit which can identify the type of tourism that the Spit might host without damaging the fragile environment.**

**This plan should be available for review by the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (2013).**

**As there seems to be a fundamental weakness in the legal protection for the Spit in the Russian Federation, the Mission recommended that the State Party review legal protection for the property.**

### **3.2.2 Planning**

The Mission was not aware of planning constraints on the development of the settlements along the Spit in the Russian Federation. There appeared to be no delineation of the profile of these settlements, nor planning controls that ensure development that respects the cultural landscape.

**The Mission recommends that the boundaries of the settlements be defined.**

### **3.2.3 Road no. 167**

The asphalted road that now lengthwise crosses the whole of the Curonian Spit is fairly new, though none of the persons questioned knew when it was built.

The road is narrow and therefore still somehow in keeping with the character of the woodland through which it runs in the area of the Russian Federation. The Lithuanian stretch was equally narrow earlier, but it was broadened during the Soviet era. The difference is obvious in the landscape - to the detriment of the broader road which has a rather unsightly utilitarian character and encourages people to speed along.

**The Mission recommends that the motorized traffic be reduced by all possible means.**

### **3.2.4 The Old Post Route**

The Curonian Post Route was a famed feature in the old days, almost as well known as the shifting dunes. It is well documented in literature and it also was a testimony to the tenacity of the people who lived on the Spit and who kept up the postal service in spite of the great difficulties caused by the storms and inclement weather. The road kept changing its course, because of the winds, tides, snow drifts, and the drifting dunes. This was especially so on the Baltic side, whereas stretches of the road linking the settlements on the Lagoon survived better and are incorporated into the modern roads.

**The Mission recommends that stretches of the Old Post Route be preserved or at least marked in the areas where it is still possible.**

### **3.2.5 Bicycle Routes**

Bicycle routes have recently been built in order to attract longer stay tourists with light carbon foot prints which is very much welcomed. The general impression of these routes was, however, that they were built in straight lines which are not very attractive for holiday cyclists, especially as the routes seem to run through the uniform forest plantations without any views either to the Baltic or to the Lagoon, though these water features are sometimes very near to the bicycle routes.

**The Mission recommends that such routes need to be integrated into the overall development of a tourism plan.**

### **3.2.6 Pavements and Lighting Equipment - A General Note**

Because of the snow conditions during the mission materials, colour and the types of construction of the roads and pavements could not be appreciated very well. Yet, it seemed obvious that bricks made of concrete and other modern materials were being used next to the old buildings that were among the ones that were being preserved.



The lighting equipment used in connection with them also struck a dissonant note, and were detrimental to the overall impression of these buildings.

### 3.2.7 Fires

It appears that fires are not a very serious threat because of the cool climate. On the other hand, the great extent of coniferous forests on the Curonian Spit needs to be considered.

A fire in the Kurshkaja Kosa National Park (Russian part of the property) in 1995 affected only 5 ha. A much larger fire took place at Smiltynė in the northern part of the Curonian Spit, in the Kursius Nerija National Park in May 2006. Some 200 ha of mainly pine forest were completely burnt. The fire was probably due to an accident, aggravated by the fact that the spring season had been particularly dry. The National Park was able to stop the extension of the fire with the co-operation of the Russian staff from the Kurshkaja Kosa National Park.

The experts of the Kursius Nerija National Park decided to let the Nature “come back” in the larger part of the area and re-planting only a tiny part. One area was reserved as a space for informing visitors about the risks of fires in pine forests and the natural processes that take place after fires. This fire has induced a reinforcement of the organisation for fighting forest fires in the Kursius Nerija National Park and also contributed towards a better detection and control of small accidental fires in the area.

**The mission recommends that systems for detection and defence against fires be included in the agreement between the transboundary parks. The mission also recommends that the 150 ha of burnt territory at Smiltynė be carefully monitored in order to observe the natural process of biological regeneration for measuring the dynamics and trends of the site, as well as the risks of the increase of invasive species which could lead to imperceptible changes to the landscape.**

### 3.2.8 Conservation of the Dunes

The history of the Curonian Spit is one of the unceasing struggle between nature and the inhabitants of the area who have tried to conserve the landscape and its natural components. This must also be considered in the territorial context required for a socio-economical and cultural development of the earlier ages.

The three main questions concerning the conservation of the landscapes and their components that need to be addressed today are:

- the conservation of the fore-dune on the Baltic shore,
- the conservation of the great dunes on the Curonian Lagoon side,
- the evolution of the forest.

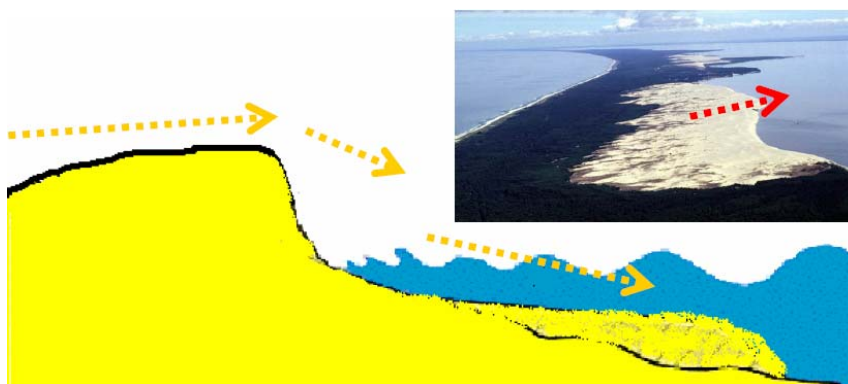
The conservation of the fore-dune is correctly addressed by the two National Parks with constant efforts of restoration using traditional techniques. The recent

changes - more frequent strong winds and rough sea - observed on the Curonian Spit seashore has increased the erosion and/or destruction of the fore-dune.

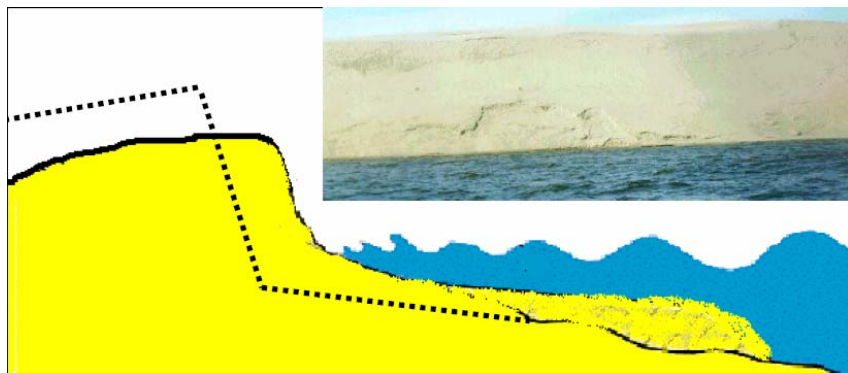


**The number of days with wind stronger than 10 metres per second**

The conservation of the great dunes is related to their natural movement towards the lagoon (dominant eastward winds) and to the poor sand migration from the western side of the Curonian Spit. The actual trend is the decreasing height of the great dunes and their progression toward the lagoon.



**Schematic evolution of the high dunes of the Curonian Lagoon shore (1<sup>st</sup> step)**

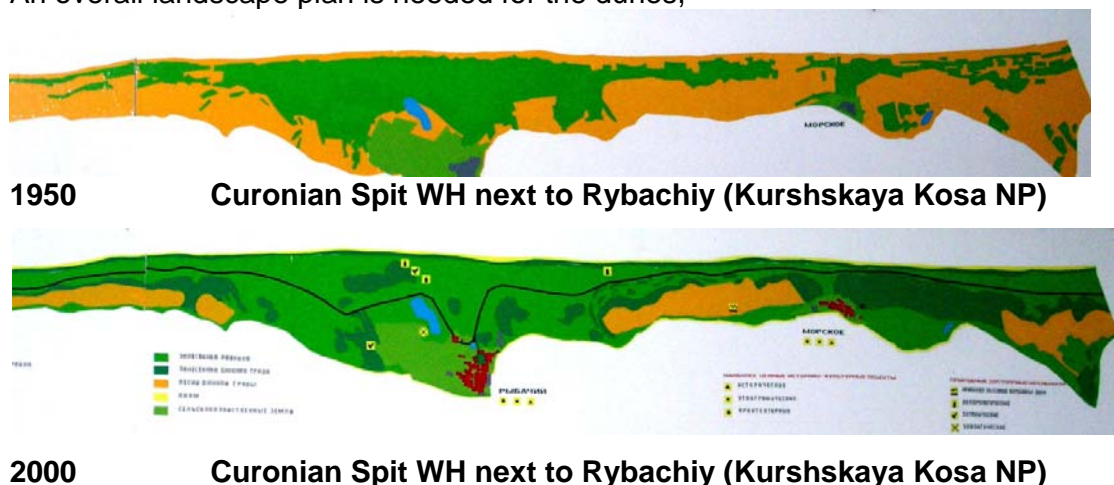


**Schematic evolution of the high dunes of the Curonian Lagoon shore (2<sup>nd</sup> step)**

One of the questions posed to the mission was whether to plant the great dunes - with unavoidable changes in the landscapes, i.e. forest replacing the open areas of the dunes, or to let the natural evolution take place, inducing other kinds of

landscape changes such as lower dunes, increase of forested areas and reduction of the lagoon.

The old mixed forests were cut for economical reasons in the past, and this led to the instability of the dunes which were later spectacularly reconstructed and re-planted in order to protect the human settlements and activities. Today the forest is progressing in some places, changing many mineral areas into vegetal spaces. An overall landscape plan is needed for the dunes,



### 3.3 Positive or negative developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee

#### 3.3.1 Evolution of certain species since inscription (2000)

The mission did not have the possibility to compare the species described in the nomination file (2000) with the same species for 2010 due to the limited time available for this joint reactive monitoring mission.

However, some elements concerning certain mammals, supplied by the scientific staff of the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park (Russian Federation), can be used for the first draft of the evolution of the natural values on the Curonian Spit even though these are not part of the reasons for inscription..

The elk population (*Alces alces*) has slightly diminished since 2006. The number of roe deers (*Capreolus capreolus*) is stable after an important increase in 2005. Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are also stable since 2006. The population of beavers (*Castor fiber*) is stable since 2000. After a period of stability from 2001 to 2008, the population of wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) doubled in one year (2009).

It would be interesting to know the reasons for these evolutions, and to compare them with those of other species, as well as to obtain the same statistics for the Lithuanian part of the property.

Though the site has not been inscribed under any natural criteria, the evolution of the fauna in the two National Parks could nevertheless give indications about the evolution of the environment in the area and consequently of the landscapes.

**The mission recommends that the two States Parties compare lists of species in the two parts of the Curonian Spit since its inscription on the World Heritage List in order to have a complete view of the trends and dynamics of the environment as these possibly indicate the ongoing evolution of the landscape. The observations in both parts of the property might also help to discover possible differences in the management processes that should be addressed before the preparation of the joint management plan.**

### 3.3.2 Rare and threatened species

The nomination file (2000) gave in the annexes (Attachment 4.2) a "list of rare and protected species of the fauna, found on the territory of the Curonian Spit". The data was from 1992 (Lithuanian Red Book), 1996 (IUNP Red Book) and 1997 (Russian Red Book).

The mission has completed this table (see *Annex 6.4.1*) with recent data (2009, 2010) from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the European Union Birds Directive Annexes, the Bern Convention Annexes and the Bonn Convention Annexes.

The synthesis of the table is as follows:

- Critically Endangered (IUCN): 1 Fish and Annex II (Bern Convention) on 5 listed
- Vulnerable and 4 Near Threatened (IUCN): 3 Birds, 20 Annex II (EU Bird Directive) and 15 Annex II (Bern Convention) on 30 listed
- Near Threatened (IUCN): 1 Insect and Annex II (Bern Convention) on 14 listed
- Near Threatened (IUCN): 1 Mammal and Annex II (Bern Convention) on 5 listed

It would be devisable to monitor these species, as well as some species of flora, in order to appreciate both the international importance for the conservation of threatened species within the cultural landscapes of the Curonian Spit, in addition to using these threatened species as one of the indicators of evolution of these landscapes.

**The mission recommends that the threatened species of flora and fauna be monitored and the factors (natural or artificial) which play a role in the conservation of these species be analysed. This could also help to prepare the proper actions which will be included in the joint management plan.**

### 3.3.3 Evolution of the Curonian Lagoon

The Curonian Lagoon communicates with the Baltic Sea by a narrow channel at the level of Klaipeda. The salty marine waters do not actually enter very far from

the strait, due to the difference of levels between the sea and lagoon bottoms. The consequence is that the waters of the lagoon are fresh.

The only commercial harbour of Lithuania in Klaipeda is vital for the national economy: its future development could be related to the digging of the channel for letting larger ships pass. In that case, the salty waters would enter further into the lagoon, generating environmental (in the flora and fauna), as well as socio-economic (fishing) changes.

**The mission recommends that the Kursiu Nerija National Park be involved in every project concerning the development of the Klaipeda harbour in order to work out joint solutions so that no irreversible changes would lead to damage or a loss of the site's values.**

### **3.4 Climatic change**

The scientific observation of the local climatic data shows that the frequency of the sea storms, and the increase of their strength, is affecting the conservation of the fore-dune increasingly every year. The two National Parks are facing a very difficult situation as they have to restore more kilometres of fore-dune more frequently.

**The mission recommends that the climatic changes are carefully recorded and the budgets dedicated to the reparations of the fore-dunes be increased for both National Parks.**

## **4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY**

### **4.1 Review whether the values, on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and the conditions of integrity are being maintained**

#### **Overall Cultural Landscape**

The preservation of the Cultural Landscape is threatened because of

- a. the foreseen “Economic Zone” in the Russian Federation,
- b. lack of boundaries of the settlements,
- c. lack of planning controls.

#### **Architectural heritage**

The ancient wooden fishermen’s houses as well as the villas, hotels, restaurants and other buildings erected mainly for the visitors coming to the Curonian Spit for bathing and holidays in the 19th and early 20th centuries have been included in the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The mission regrets that it has to agree with the statements made by the previous joint advisory mission to Lithuania in 2009: the foreseen standards have not been met. The conservation of the buildings is, of course, difficult, because most of them are in private possession, and the owners tend to regard the changes that they wish to make as minor ones. It must also be noted that the terms like “restoration, reconstruction, and authenticity” tend to mean different things to different people in different countries. More detailed discussions between the international and the local experts about these themes might have led to better conservation of the buildings. Now the situation is rather perilous, and if some drastic betterment is not soon achieved the fishermen’s houses and other older wooden buildings can be claimed to represent neither Outstanding Universal Values nor “Authenticity”.

#### **The Dunes**

The dune landscapes of the Curonian Spit are immensely impressive, and - for the Lithuanian people - the history and cultural traditions connected with the dunes constitute an important part of the national heritage. Due however to a variety of factors, the reasons for which are not clearly known, the dunes have begun visibly to diminish in several areas since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List.

The main factors seem to be the violent storms, the changes in the direction of the west and the east winds, problems with the stability of the shores at the Baltic Sea as well as at the Curonian Lagoon, cf. the State Party report of the Russian Federation on the state of conservation of the property on 27 January 2010 (p.1 ff). The same problems beset also the dune landscapes in the Lithuanian area of the site. The height loss of the dunes is very noticeable e.g. from the classic touristic viewing point from the south of Nida.

The Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon are integral parts of the landscapes of the Curonian Spit aesthetically, ecologically, and historically. However, these two water features have so far most often been discussed in connection with the movements of the dunes, the destructive storms, their eutrophication, the problems created by floating ice and the pollution. These themes have, indeed, long been very worrying. The mission was pleased to learn that the work undertaken in Lithuania during the last years of the cleaning of the Curonian Lagoon has now begun to show positive results. The cleanliness of the Lagoon water now meets the EU standards.

Two endangered areas mentioned in the 2010 State Party Report of the Russian Federation are the loss of land area at Morskoye and the – possible – disappearance of Lebed Lake. These problems were not included in the agenda of the present mission, but they might be considered by the States Parties.

### **The Endangered Plants**

No specific discussion about the conservation of the endangered plants was included in the agenda of the present mission; see, however, above *Linnaea*.

### **Forest fires**

The minor forest fires in recent times have been well and quickly controlled and, consequently, have not caused any noticeable damage to the Outstanding Universal Values of the property. The building of the “Mineral Way” on the Lithuanian side, the constant patrolling and checking by the personal of both National Parks, has been very valuable in this respect. The devastating fire at Smiltynė in 2006, the remains of which are still visible at the main road probably also serve as a reminder to the general public to take care and stay alert in the National Parks in this respect.

### **Migratory Birds**

For some time the reports of the State Parties and of the UNESCO missions have not contained information about the state of conservation of the areas important to the migratory birds on the Curonian Spit. No specific discussion about this matter took place in connection with the present mission either.

### **Other animals**

According to the information received the conservation status of large mammals is fine. Smaller mammals were not discussed in connection with this mission.

#### **4.2 Review any follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property and measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property**

##### **Necessity of a joint Management Plan of the property**

The World Heritage Committee in its 34th session (34 COM 7B.91) had encouraged "the two States Parties to strengthen collaboration over management and protection".

The joint management plan agreed at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and requested again at the last World Heritage Committee session (Brasilia,2010), is still lacking.

The States Parties must now proceed to draw up the joint management plan, as they agreed to in 2000. There are many factors which may explain the delay, however it is now high time to take action. The lack of a joint management plan is not only causing a possible loss of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, but also unnecessary friction and uncertainty to all those involved in trying to conserve it, and to the people living in the area. The Curonian Spit deserves the best possible treatment, and uniform management guidelines are of an absolute necessity for achieving that goal. It is our responsibility to safeguard and preserve this heritage for the benefit of the future generations, and there is no other way to achieve this goal than to take the time and the effort needed to agree upon the joint management plan. The 2009 mission to Lithuania made several noteworthy recommendations that should be included in the joint management plan.

##### **Definition of a joint Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

The World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (34 COM 7B.91) had encouraged "the two States Parties to prepare a joint Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property as a basis for future management and conservation".

At the time of writing the report (December 2010) a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been prepared, but only for the Lithuanian part of the Curonian Spit(see *Annex 6.5.2.*). This is a positive development, but it is now necessary that the State Party of the Russian Federation deliver a similar draft as soon as possible, as it is only thereafter that the joint statement by both States Parties can be achieved as requested by the World Heritage Committee.



## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Recommendations for any additional action to be taken by the State Party, including draft recommendations to the World Heritage Committee

#### 5.1.1 Additional actions to be taken

##### A Specific Traffic Management Plan

The mission considers that a specific traffic management plan must be included in the joint management plan. It must take into account and deal with the consequences generated by the various types of traffic as well as vehicles (see below), and present clearly the measures to be taken to control them – each one separately and all together - in order to lessen the detrimental impact, not only of the traffic *per se* for the property, e.g. noise, fumes, congestion, but also its secondary consequences such as littering, accidental fires, ad hoc picnics and camping in the protected zones of the National Parks, etc:

- a. traffic generated by the holiday makers: large numbers of day trippers to the beaches on warm days, longer stay tourists travelling around to see the sights on the Spit, groups arriving in large coaches etc.,
- b. traffic generated by the trans-border shoppers (e.g. Lithuanians travelling to the Russian Federation to buy cheaper petrol etc. and vice versa),
- c. traffic generated by the use of the road as a general transit axis between Klaipeda and Zelenogradsk/Kaliningrad,
- d. traffic generated by the people living and working in the area.

The plan should include a complete assessment of the traffic generated by the different kinds of tourism and at the different times of the year.

The plan should also assess whether e.g. a free shuttle service leaving Zelenogradsk and Klaipeda to the respective frontier posts every half an hour and with regular stops might reduce some of the congestion and/or the use of the private vehicles.

##### A Specific Tourism Management Plan

It became equally clear to the mission that the joint management plan must include a specific tourism management plan. A number of studies on the tourism at the Curonian Spit have already been made, and at least one more is in preparation. However, they seem to concentrate primarily on the furthering of tourism. Apparently, there is no overall study on the environmental impacts caused by the different kinds of tourism on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The short term financial gains of a larger number of visitors may prove detrimental in the long term, when the prices rise and the visitors become more critical and discerning at not finding the property as integral and authentic as they had been led to expect.

##### Reed Grass Islands

It is to be studied whether the reed grass islands might help to counteract the land losses at the shores of the Curonian Lagoon, cf. the 2010 State Party report on

state of conservation of the property from the Russian Federation, p. 2. It is stated that they have been helpful in other areas of the gulf coast.

### **Construction policy on the shores or on the fore-dunes**

It is the landscape of the dunes and the water features, the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon, that make the unique landscapes of OUV. They must be preserved intact.

Holidaymakers that need hotels, restaurants, cafés and parking lots in the immediate vicinity of the beach must kindly be directed to other resorts created for that kind of tourism. The Curonian Spit is *a priori* a National Park conserved for the enjoyment of visitors interested in its specific values. These values are fragile and vulnerable, the property is small, and therefore it cannot and it must not attempt to cater for every wish of every holiday maker.

### **Actions for resolving conflicts of interest between the National Parks and the Municipalities**

The 2009 mission to Lithuania reported that the management plans of the municipalities and the National Parks are inconsistent with each. The present mission attests not only to this, but moreover to statements from the personnel of the National Parks that they are often accused of standing in the way of the economic development of the area, of being restrictive, negative, even hostile to the holiday makers and the local inhabitants. Consequently they tend to lax the rules and prohibitions put in place to conserve the different zones of the National Parks, which is not in the interest of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

In order to help a more effective work process, seminars / conferences are to be organized on a regular, yearly basis on various themes, with the goal to educate the inhabitants about the Outstanding Universal Value of the Curonian Spit, their fragility, the importance of the National Parks personnel in safeguarding them etc. in order to lessen the friction and help to better preserve the property.

### **Creation of Buffer Zones**

Some local authorities seem to take the view that buffer zones are not necessary on the Spit, as the whole of the Spit consists of the two National Parks. This misunderstanding should be clarified. The buffer zones may be necessary for a variety of reasons including the intrusive visibility of buildings in the settlements, at the shoreline, and also outside the settlements, e.g. next to the nature reserves or dunes in general. Another type of buffer zones may be necessary because of the sinking of the water tables and the noise pollution. The matter needs to be carefully considered.

### **Mitigation of the housing problem in the Lithuanian part of the Curonian Spit**

As already mentioned in the 2009 Curonian Spit Mission Report to the Lithuanian part of the property, a housing problem persists as affluent people buy properties on the Spit which are used as holiday homes. The issue was brought up in the discussions during this mission as well. As the property prices continue to rise substantially the local work force is obliged to go and live in Klaipėda which means a daily commuting of some 100 km by car. This is neither in the interest of the National Park nor of the environment in general.. This problem should, however,

be looked into by the Lithuanian authorities themselves. There are many areas in Europe where the possession of real estate is limited or restricted in the interest of the local people, their livelihoods or because of landscape conservation. Different options exist: The outside owners of the properties may need to pay extra taxes to the relevant municipalities, the local people may have price reductions for some facilities, e.g. transport or food-stuffs etc. This way some communities have found solutions which seem to work for them. UNESCO World Heritage Centre should be aware about the implications of the said housing problem to the World Heritage property, but its resolution should be the responsibility of the Lithuanian authorities.

### **Reporting on the water and underwater areas**

Both the National Parks consists of several thousands of hectares of water on both sides of the Spit. UNESCO World Heritage Centre should require that the States Parties in their reports on the state of conservation of the property submit information on all the developments in the water and underwater areas, including by taking into account the prospect of oil. The mission was informed about a fishing company which has been recently established in the Russian area, as well as about plans on digging the Lagoon deeper to make it more attractive for the visitors. Matters like these need to be notified to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by the two States Parties in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

### **5.1.2 Recommendations**

The mission's recommendations include:

1. That the proposed four Leisure Complexes in the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park, which include a conference hall for 600 people, hotels and luxury apartments for over a 1,000 people together with a parking area for 350 cars, restaurants, shops, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc., should not be constructed because of adverse impact of the projects' scale and scope on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
2. That the designation of the "The Tourist and Recreational Zone of the Curonian Spit" established by the Russian Federal Government's Decision No 73 of 3 February 2007 should be reconsidered as it is not in conformity with the protection of the property.
3. That the delineation of the settlements should be carried out in order to define areas for houses and gardens that do not impact on the landscape.
4. That planning regulations need to be established for the overall development of the property in the Russian Federation which might identify appropriate areas for small scale sustainable tourism development.
5. That the two States Parties propose the first draft of a joint management plan developing a joint vision and a platform of joint actions\_for the 36th

session of the World Heritage Committee (2012). This document should lead to the comprehensive joint management plan for the Curonian Spit to be prepared by 2013.

6. That the systems for detection and defence against fires be included in the agreement between the transboundary parks. The mission also recommends that the 150 ha of burnt territory at Smyltinė be carefully monitored in order to observe the natural process of biological regeneration for measuring the dynamics and trends of the site, as well as the risks of increase of invasive species which could lead to imperceptible changes to the landscape.
7. That the two States Parties compare lists of species in the two parts of the Curonian Spit since its inscription on the World Heritage List in order to have a complete view of the trends and dynamics of the environment as these possibly indicate the ongoing evolution of the landscape. The observations in both parts of the property might also help to discover possible differences in the management processes that should be addressed before the preparation of the joint management plan.
8. That the threatened species of flora and fauna are monitored and the factors (natural or artificial) which play a role in the conservation of these species be analysed. This analysis should serve as a basis for preparing the proper actions which should be included in the joint management plan.
9. That the Kursiu Nerija National Park be involved in every project concerning the development of the Klaipėda harbour in order to work out joint solutions so that no irreversible changes would damage or lead to a loss of the site's Outstanding Universal Value.
10. That the changes be carefully monitored and recorded.
11. That the budgets dedicated to the reparations of the fore-dunes be increased for both National Parks.
12. That a comprehensive joint tourist management plan be prepared for the Curonian Spit as a whole (Lithuanian and Russian parts) during 2011 and 2012. This plan should be available for review by the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (2013). Within the framework of the preparation of the overall tourist plan, a specific working group should be formed to discuss the Kaliningrad Special Economic Zone Tourist and the Recreational Complex Project in order to integrate these results into the discussions of the joint tourist development plan for the Curonian Spit.
13. That the Russian Federation prepare as soon as possible, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as already prepared by Lithuania, in preparation of the joint Statement by the two States Parties.
14. That a joint, specific traffic management plan be established including a complete assessment of the traffic generated by the different kinds of

tourism during the different times of year. This plan should also assess whether free shuttle services may reduce some of the congestion and/or use of private vehicles on the main road along the Spit.

15. That all new constructions, except those related to security and information, be forbidden on the fore-dunes and the dunes. The joint tourism management plan should contain recommendations for possible locations of the recreational and tourist zones so that they can be properly managed and define the rules of the proportions and style of the buildings.
16. In order to contribute to an improved working atmosphere for the National Parks staff, who are often seen as too restrictive by holiday makers, it is recommended that seminars or conferences be organized on a regular, yearly basis on various themes, with the goal to educate the visitors about the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, its fragility, the importance of the National Parks personnel in safeguarding its values, etc. to lessen the friction and help to better preserve the property.
17. That a buffer zone be defined and established for the whole property, in relation with the zoning and regulations of the two National Parks.
18. That the State Party of Lithuania carefully consider the issue of housing through developing a peer review of the question and preparing an adequate policy for resolving this issue in relation to the local socio-economic situation and the conservation of the site's Outstanding Universal Value.
19. That the States Parties in their reports on the state of conservation of the property submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre provide information on all developments regarding the water and underwater areas, including by taking into account the prospect of oil.

**5.2 Whenever further action is needed, clear benchmarks indicating the corrective measures to be taken in order to achieve significant improvement of the state of conservation and a timeframe within which the benchmarks will have to be met**

#### **The joint management plan**

The two States Parties should submit a first document of joint management developing a joint vision and a platform of joint actions to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (2012). This document should lead to the comprehensive joint management plan for the Curonian Spit to be elaborated in 2013 and presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session.

#### **The joint tourist management plan**

The comprehensive joint tourist management plan has to be prepared for the Curonian Spit as a whole (Lithuanian and Russian parts) during the years 2011 (draft) and 2012 (final document). This plan should be available for the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (2013).

**The joint specific traffic management plan**

The joint specific traffic management plan should be established in 2011 and 2012 for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session.

**The joint Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

The draft of the Statement for the Russian part of the Curonian Spit has to be prepared by the authorities of the Russian Federation before the end of 2011. The joint Statement of Outstanding Value of the Curonian Spit should be submitted for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (2012).

**Seminar on the Curonian Spit cultural landscape**

An international seminar has to be held at the invitation of the two State Parties, with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN), before the end of 2012, to integrate the results and recommendations in the comprehensive joint management plan in preparation for 2013.

**5.3 Recommendation as to whether the level of threats to the property warrants the property being placed on or removed of the List of World Heritage in Danger**

The mission considers that the current level of threats makes the property vulnerable but does not meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

However, the level and number of different kinds of threats, if they are not addressed in the short term, may present a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and therefore lead to its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Among these threats are the following:

- no joint management plan is prepared as recommended by the mission;
- the 2009 Advisory Mission recommendations about the conservation of buildings are not followed as expected;
- tourism - and the furthering of tourism – becomes uncontrollable to the detriment of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

## 6. ANNEXES

### 6.1 Terms of reference

Based on the World Heritage Committee Decision **34 COM 7B.91** concerning the state of conservation of the transboundary World Heritage property: Curonian Spit, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000, and taking into consideration the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

The mission shall:

1. Assess the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions 32COM 7B.98 and 34 COM 7B.91 of the World Heritage Committee, as well as the recommendations by the joint ICOMOS/IUCN technical advisory mission of 2009 to ensure that the management systems and plans are adequate to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value and that the traditional settlements are protected and conserved and have appropriate planning and development controls in place (this should be supported by the relevant technical documentation to be provided by the provided by the States Parties);
2. Consider the state of conservation of the transboundary property in relation to threats of development and from the erosion of sand-dunes (this should be supported by the relevant technical documentation to be provided by the States Parties);
3. Review the completeness of the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, jointly prepared by the States Parties and submitted to the World Heritage Centre before the mission;
4. Review any additional issues related to the state of conservation of the property;
5. Meet with relevant stakeholders of the local, regional and national authorities from both States parties, including local associations and NGO's, to discuss and review the above-mentioned issues.

## 6.2 Itinerary and programme

Saturday 04/12: travels Montpellier-Paris-St Petersburg-Kaliningrad (GC) and Helsinki-St Petersburg-Kaliningrad (ER)

### Russian Federation

- Sunday 05/12:
- working session on management and conservation issues for the Russian part of World Heritage site (Kurshskaya Kosa)
  - field visit (survey of the state of sand dunes and coastal conditions)
  - meeting with non- governmental organisations
  - cultural event hosted by the Russian authorities
- Monday 06/12:
- working session with representatives of Russian Ministry of Economic Development, Regional Government of Kaliningrad, Municipality of Zelenogradsk, Open Joint Stock Company Kaliningrad Special Economic Zone, non-governmental organisations
  - field visit to the village of Rybavhiy proposed for the establishment of one of the four tourism development project areas
  - transfer to Lithuania

### Lithuania

- Tuesday 07/12:
- field visit to the Kursiu Nerija National Park for survey of the state of sand dunes, strict nature reserve, tourism control
  - working session with representatives of Neringa Municipality, cultural heritage institutions, non-governmental organisations
  - working session with the National Park authorities on the National Park management plan
- Wednesday 08/12:- survey of urbanized territory of Nida, listed building, problematic buildings, ethnographic museum, Thomas Mann house
- working session with representatives from the Lithuanian Ministries of Environment and Culture, the Lithuanian Commission for UNESCO, the Kursiu Nerija National Park authorities, Neringa authorities, Russian Ministry of Environment, the Russian Commission for UNESCO
- Thursday 09/12:
- travels Palanga-Riga-Praha-Paris-Montpellier (GC) and Palanga-Helsinki (ER)

## 6.3 Composition of the mission team

Dr Gérard Collin for UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN  
 Dr Eeva Ruoff for ICOMOS



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## 6.5 Documents

6.5.1 Conservation status of some species							
	RU Red Book 1997	LT Red Book 1992	IUNP 1996	IUCN 2010	UE Dir 2009	Bern Conv	Bonn Conv 2005
<b>INSECTA</b>							
<i>Cicindella maritima</i>		II		NE			
<i>Polyphylla fullo</i>		III		NE			
<i>Necotia lugubris</i>		II		NE			
<i>Calosoma sycophanta</i>		II		NE			
<i>Papilio machaon</i>		III		NE			
<b>Maculinea teleius</b>		II		NT		II	
<i>Theumetopoea pinivora</i>		I		NE			
<i>Cuculia balsamitae</i>		III		NE			
<i>Apamea lithoxylea</i>		IV		NE			
<i>Mesoligia literosa</i>		III		NE			
<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>		II		NE			
<i>Labidura riparia</i>		III		NE			
<i>Crossocerus imitans</i>		III		NE			
<i>Podalonia luffii</i>		III		NE			
<b>CYCLOSTOMATA</b>							
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	I	I	II	LC		III	
<b>OSTEICHTHYES</b>							
<i>Alosa fallax</i>	IV	I		LC		III	
<i>Salmo trutta trutta</i>	II	IV	I	LC			
<i>Salmo salar</i>		IV		LC		III	
<i>Abramis ballerus</i>		O		LC		III	
<b>Acipenser sturio</b>		O		CR		II	I
<b>AVES</b>							
<i>Gavia arctica arctica</i>	II			LC	I	II	II
<i>Cygnus bewickii</i>	V			LC	I	II	II
<b>Anser erythropus</b>	II			VU	I	II	I
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	III			LC	IIB		II
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		IV		LC		II	II
<i>Mergus merganser</i>		III		LC	IIB		II
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	III			LC	I	III	II
<b>Milvus milvus</b>	I			NT	I	III	II
<i>Milvus migrans</i>		II		LC	I	III	II
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	II			LC	I	III	II
<b>Aquila clanga</b>	II			VU	I	III	I
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	III			LC	I	III	II
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	III			LC	I	III	II
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	III	I	II	LC	I	III	I
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	II			LC	I	II	II

	RU Red Book 1997	LT Red Book 1992	IUNP Red Book 1996	IUCN 2010	EU Bird Dir 2009	Bern Conv	Bonn Conv 2005
Falco tinnunculus		IV		LC		II	II
Crex crex			I	LC	I	II	II
Recurvirostra avosetta	III			LC	I	II	II
Haematopus ostralegus longipes	III			LC	IIB	III	II
Calidris alpina schinzii	III			LC	I	II	II
<b>Gallinago media</b>			<b>III</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Numenius arquata</b>	<b>II</b>			<b>NT</b>	<b>IIB</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>II</b>
Hydroprogne caspia	III			LC	I	II	II
Columba oenas		II		LC	IIB	III	
Dendrocops medius medius	II			LC	I	II	
Picus viridis		III		LC		II	
Lanius excubitor excubitor	III			LC		II	
Anthus campestris		IV		LC	I	II	
<b>Acrocephalus paludicola</b>	<b>IV</b>			<b>VU</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>I</b>
Parus cyanus cyanus	IV			LC		II	
<b>MAMMALIA</b>							
Halichoerus grypus	I	I		LC		III	II
macrorhynchus							
Micromys minutus			III	LC			
<b>Lutra lutra</b>		<b>IV</b>		<b>NT</b>		<b>II</b>	
Eptesicus serotinus		IV		LC		II	
Pipistrellus pipistrellus		IV		LC		III	

#### Red Books of Federation of Russia, Lithuania and IUNP:

- I: Species under the threat of disappearing
- II: Species with numbers that are steadily reducing
- III: Rare species
- I: Indefinite by status (poorly studied)
- V: Reconstructing species

#### IUCN Red List:

- NE: Not estimated
- LC: Least Concerned
- NT: Near Threatened
- V: Vulnerable
- CR: Critically Endangered

#### EU Birds Directive:

- I: endangered and migratory species
- IIB: hunting allowed only in listed Member States

#### Bern Convention:

- II: strictly protected species of fauna
- III: protected species of fauna

#### Bonn Convention:

- I: migratory species threatened with extinction
- II: migratory species that need benefit from international cooperation

### 6.5.2 Draft of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value prepared by the State Party of Lithuania

APPROVED by  
Resolution No of 2010  
of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

#### STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE CURONIAN SPIT

Description	Curonian Spit
a. Brief synthesis	The Curonian Spit is a unique vulnerable sandy wooded cultural landscape of low dispersive urbanisation formed and still being formed by the sea, wind and human interaction which has retained its social and cultural importance. (8 former fisherman located at the Curonian Lagoon coast settlements covering just about 3% of the Spit).
i. Summary description	Human habitation of this long narrow (98 km long and 0.4-4 km wide) sand dune peninsula between the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon, dates back to prehistoric times. When first settlers moved in, the Curonian Spit served as a trade and military route and as an international postal route after middle of the 17 <sup>th</sup> century. Reflecting the changes in the natural environment, changes of local community appeared because of the need for deliberate action in order to survive in the changing environment and ability to choose the appropriate forms of activity. Human population survival in the area is a result of ceaseless human efforts to combat the dunes movement, dramatically illustrated by continuing stabilization and reforestation projects.
ii. Summary of qualities (values, attributes)	<p>The 5 thousand years old Spit has a dramatic history: 1) the Spit with the Great Dune Ridge on moraine islands was created by the natural forces - from the sand transported by currents and later covered by forest; 2) it was extremely changed by removal of forests (after intensive logging in the 17-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the dunes began moving towards the Curonian Lagoon burying the oldest fisherman settlements); 3) in 19<sup>th</sup> century stabilized by intensive human activities. The dune stabilisation work continued for 200 years. The results: by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a protective dune ridge was formed along the seashore which prevented sand migration inland and the Great Dune Ridge was covered by brushwood hedge and later by trees. Movement of the greater part of Great Dune Ridge was stopped.</p> <p>The most valuable elements and qualities of the Curonian Spit cultural landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the general spatial structure of the cultural landscape expressing harmonious coexistence between humans and nature as well as characteristic powerful panoramas and silhouette from the Curonian Lagoon;</li> <li>• cultural formations: oldest fisherman villages covered by sand; spatial-planned structure and architecture of ancient fishermen villages turned into resort settlements: ancient wooden fishermen houses, professional architecture buildings of the 19th century: lighthouses, piers, churches, schools, villas, hotels, summerhouses; elements of marine cultural heritage;</li> <li>• natural and semi-natural formations – part of cultural landscape: the distinctive Great Dune Ridge and individual dunes, relicts of ancient parabolic dunes; man-made protective coastal dune ridge; specific planes at sea and lagoon coasts, capes at the lagoon coast; ancient forests, mountain pine forests and other unique flora and fauna, bird migration path;</li> <li>• social – cultural traditions, spirituality of area – reflecting an evolution of society former based on fishing.</li> </ul>

b. Outstanding universal value criterion – V	<p>The Curonian Spit is an outstanding example of landscape of sand dunes reflecting harmonious coexistence between the nature and humans with unique abundance of natural and cultural properties.</p> <p>This is a cultural landscape formed and still being formed by the sea, wind and human interaction and whose survival may be threatened by the irreversible changes</p>
c. Integrity	<p>Curonian Spit cultural landscape is well isolated and natural bordered by Baltic sea and Curonian lagoon, what determine its physical and visual wholeness. The most valuable elements and qualities of the Curonian Spit are supplemented by the harmony of nature, cultural heritage and traditional activity, giving a sense to experience accumulated through many generations of the local population.</p> <p>The entire complex of the Curonian Spit landscape reflecting valuable qualities and underlying processes as well as retaining historical functions and specific sustainable land use methods related to the peculiarities of the natural environment as well as a specific spiritual bond between humans and the nature is under protection. All Curonian Spit territory and parts of the Baltic Sea and Curonian Lagoon are inside of two National Parks (Curonian Spit – Lithuania and Kurshskaya Kosa – Russian Federation) and specific buffer zone is not needed.</p>
d. Authenticity	<p>Natural, modified and cultural landscape elements comprising the current structure of the Spit landscape illustrate well the most important features of its formation through their shapes, volumes, materials, purpose and functions.</p> <p>The authenticity of landscape is reflected by tangible and spiritual values of different historical periods shaping its identity.</p> <p>The vitality, spirituality and special mood of the cultural landscape and its unique nature is highlighted by authentic forms of local intangible heritage, including marine cultural heritage formations and phenomena, traditional trades, folklore and artistic traditions, ethnographic elements of fishermen lifestyles, unique methods of protective dune ridge management and forest maintenance; sustainable recreational use, which is a leisure cultural tradition from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>The most vulnerable elements and qualities of the Curonian Spit cultural landscape are ancient wooden fishermen houses and wooden decor of professional architecture buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, elements of marine cultural heritage, man-made protective coastal dune ridge changes in the global climate changing perspective.</p>
e. Management and protection necessary to sustain the outstanding universal value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overall framework</li> <li>ii. Specific long-term expectations</li> </ul>	<p>The Curonian Spit is situated on the territory of two countries: the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation. Both National Parks have common goals: conservation of the Curonian Spit – an integral natural and cultural formation and its individual elements with the main priority to conserve cultural landscape and other attributes which are a part of outstanding universal value. Both National Parks administrations are responsible for the effective protection and management of national parks in general, also for the protection and management of outstanding universal value of Curonian Spit, inscribed on the WHL.</p> <p>Municipalities (Neringa and Klaipėda City, the Curonian Spit municipal unit of Zelenogradsk area) administrating territory of the Curonian Spit are involved in planning, protection and management of settlements located in Curonian Spit in general.</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for conservation of the Curonian Spit In Lithuania through authorised agencies.</p>



The protection of registered immovable cultural heritage is implemented by the Cultural Heritage Department under the Ministry of Culture. The local community is the main conservator of tangible heritage and carrier of intangible heritage. Understanding of outstanding universal value by local community plays a very important role. For effective management of outstanding universal value more close collaboration of all stake holders in the states is needed as well as between states.

Very important prerequisite for the protection of outstanding universal value is state land ownership in the national parks.

In Lithuania any activity posing a threat to the outstanding universal value of the Curonian Spit is prohibited by the Law on Protected Areas (2001), by Regulations (...) and Protection Rules (2002) of Curonian Spit National Park, etc. and by planning documents. Some problems still are caused by enforcement of legal acts and planning documents. So some improvements in enforcement of legal acts might be done in near future.

In Russia ...

Different attributes, prescribed in the Brief synthesis, requires different protection regime and management activities. For this purpose zones of different conservation regime have been established in national parks such as strict reserves, reserves, recreational, residential and other zones. Mentioned zones and the conservation measures and possible uses of national parks are outlined in spatial planning documents.

The Curonian Spit National Park (Lithuania) has a comprehensive Planning Scheme (Master Plan) – key spatial planning document approved by Government (1994). At the moment general plans for Neringa and Klaipeda City municipalities are prepared. Overlapping of proposals of these documents is seen. To ensure conservation of the outstanding universal value and management of the area, to improve cooperation of all stakeholders, particularly cooperation between National Park administration and Neringa municipality, to agree on future activities is planned to draw up the revised Curonian Spit National Park Management Plan by 2017. It would be only one spatial planning document for the Curonian Spit National Park. National Park administration and municipalities would be involved into implementation of this plan.

The Kurshskaja Kosa National Park has the Master Development Plan (1989) in the Russian Federation.

Coordination of spatial planning documents for both National Parks is necessary.

Tourism development in both National Parks plays a very important role for all Curonian Spit and for outstanding universal value as well. Outstanding universal value conservation in recreational active settlements become the object of hot debates take place between state and municipal institutions as well as between other stake holders. Tourism development issues in Lithuania finally might be discussed during preparation of new Curonian Spit National Park Management Plan.

### 6.5.3 Selected examples for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of Cultural Landscape World Heritage properties

#### **FERTÖ/NEUSIEDLERSEE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (Austria, Hungary)**

Inscription: 2001 Criterion: v

#### **II. Justification for inscription**

##### **a) Statement of the significance of the natural / cultural property**

The Fertő-Neusiedler region has a unique diversity in both geological and geomorphological terms. Because of the various climatic effects, continental, sub-Mediterranean, de-Alpine, mountainous, it is a meeting point of not only geographical but also floral and faunal borders. Ethnic composition of the population shows similar diversity consisting of German, Slav (Croat) and Finno-Ugrian-Altay (Hungarian) ethnic elements. Within Euro-Asia, Fertő-Neusiedler Lake is the westernmost steppe lake.

The extraordinarily diverse and special beauty of Fertő-Neusiedler Lake is of outstanding universal value created and preserved for us by an organic process of evolution, by the work of man living in symbiosis with the natural environment.

In addition to the diverse and unique value of flora and fauna around Fertő-Neusiedler Lake, we find plenty of archaeological heritage from successive civilisations; the quarries in Fertőrákos have been in use since Roman times, the Mörbisch and St.

Margarethen quarries are geological, mining and aesthetic curiosities alike.

The life of the lake was very dynamic, it was flooding, then retracting, disappearing, and sometimes people would like it to disappear. It is not surprising that the imagination of the local population was excited by its continuous transformation and impressive changes. It entered the tales, sagas and legends of the area and has become part of the spiritual heritage of this cultural landscape.

The component features of the Fertő-Neusiedler Lake area are of great variety, its main features being reed, water and hilly vineyards.

The row of settlements around the lake harmonises with the land in both its scale and internal structure within the proposed property and buffer zone. There is a rich and valuable stock of historic monuments which is an architectural documentation of the traditional agrarian land use and way of living. The area has been continuously populated since medieval times which is illustrated by overlapping material from different periods in the individual settlements, their ancient monuments and groups of buildings. Outstanding examples are the free town of Rust enclosed by a town wall and under preservation order in its entirety plus, to its south, the village of Fertőrákos the core of which is also classified as a historic monument.

## **GOBUSTAN ROCK ART CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (Azerbaijan)**

Inscription: 2007 Criteria: iii

### **Proposed statement of outstanding universal value**

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve is a rich historical cultural landscape that has developed through millennia of human evolution. The reserve, as a protected area, encompasses three rock art sites, where the concentration of rock engravings, associated with the quality of the images and its state of conservation, is absolutely outstanding.

The place is a unique outdoors museum and is considered to be one of the first seats of the human civilization.

The Gobustan has archaeological traces from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. The history of these ancient rock engravings starts since Upper Palaeolithic. The ancient inhabitants of this region maintained for millennia the tradition of engraving rocks, reflecting the living conditions and worldviews. (E.Anati, *ibidem.*, p.7)

Gobustan is a gate of Europe, a meeting place between Europe and Asia during the course of

millennia. As an area of transit, which has preserved the imprints of whoever has passed by it, is a point of great significance for reconstructing the roots of European and Asian civilizations. (E.Anati, *ibidem.*, p.85)

Despite the abundance of comparative elements one of the curious aspects of the sequence of the Gobustan rock art is in its uniqueness. (E.Anati, *ibidem.*, p.37)

## **MOUNT WUTAI (China)**

Inscription: 2009 Criteria: ii, iii, iv, vi

### **Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

As the nominated site consists of the highest mountains evolved out of the early strata with a history of over 2.5 billion years, the outcropped Archean granite-greenstone belt (2.7-2.5 billion years) and the Paleoproterozoic strata (2.5-1.9 billion years) found here are best records of the early evolution of the Earth and the collision orogeny.

It is an ideal place to establish the geochronologic boundary of the Archean and Proterozoic Eons (2.5 billion years), thus of universal values to the stratigraphic classification and to global comparative

studies. Hutuo Group (2.5-1.9 billion years) is the most representative Paleoproterozoic stratigraphic unit in China, a complete record of the Paleoproterozoic geological evolution of the Earth and a classical section for global comparative studies (of the ancient environment, biological evolution and tectonic evolution). Hutuo Group is the most intact record of the evolution of life on the Asian continent and an outstanding example of the evolution of life as well as the sedimentary environment at the early stage of the Earth as some of microflora fossils found here are the remains of the earliest known eukaryotic organisms in China. The nominated site has ancient planation surface and periglacial landforms typical of East Asia and can be taken as important evidence of the Cenozoic evolution of the geological environment as well as the Cenozoic climate change.

The Buddhist building ensemble (including Buddhist pagoda), the East Main Hall of Foguang Temple in particular, reflect the architectural art, skills and characteristics of different historical stages in China since the Northern Wei Period and is standing specimen for studies of the ancient architectural art and techniques in China. Despite its history of over 1100 years, the East Main Hall of the Foguang

Temple has not been through over-hauls and thus can be regarded as a matchless existent timber structure in the world. The Buddhist statues of Mount Wutai, exemplified by the colored statues of Tang Dynasty in the Foguang Temples as well as the suspension statues of Ming Dynasty in the Shuxiang Temple, represent the human



creative genius in the art of sculpture. The Buddhist murals, such as the Tang murals in the East Main Hall and the arhat murals of Ming Dynasty in Manjusri Hall of the Foguang Temple, are outstanding manifestations of the human creative genius in mural arts. Overall, the Buddhist architectures, pagodas, sutra pillars, Buddhist sculptures and statues, stele inscriptions and Buddhist murals present a full picture of the successful localization of Buddhism in China and its spread through China to other countries in East Asia, bearing a unique testimony to the extinct Chinese royal religious civilization and the living Manjusri worship civilization. Temple buildings of Mount Wutai are typical of the traditional Buddhist building clusters in China in terms of the central radiation spatial arrangement and landscape plan and design.

The nominated site perfectly combines the natural landscape with the Buddhist religious culture, demonstrating awe and belief in the Buddha with a worship of the natural mountains, and is therefore a perfect example of the Chinese philosophical thinking of "harmony between man and nature". Under this Philosophy, Mount Wutai finally becomes a typical associative cultural landscape.

## **ARANJUEZ CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (Spain)**

Inscription: 2001 Criteria: ii, iv

### **C. Justification for the inscription according to the criteria approved by Unesco**

#### **1. Presentation**

Aranjuez is an exemplary landscape in terms of what Art. 18 of the Directives for the application of the Convention on World Heritage (UNESCO, Feb/1997) considers "an especially significant symbiosis of cultural and natural features" or what Art. 23 calls "works wherein the hand of man and nature combine".

Aranjuez possesses an exceptional universal value as it exemplifies, with unquestionable success, the collaboration of culture and nature throughout more than four hundred centuries, achieving the result of a unique and fortunate landscape.

The special fragility of the landscape of Aranjuez, the delicate care required for its conservation and the evident risks threatening its survival, have motivated local, regional and state administrations to establish numerous laws, regulations and specific rules to establish the most appropriate protection measures for their management.

Vast amounts of public and private financial resources have been devoted to preserve the area over the last years. These funds are expected to increase to the extent possible in upcoming years, as is shown in the following pages.

#### **2. Application of the criteria for the inscription of cultural properties on the world heritage list.**

Art. 24 of the Directives states, in application of the Convention on the World Heritage List, that it will be considered that a property has "an exceptional universal value when the Committee considers that said property either fulfills, at least one of the criteria" listed below. To a greater or lesser extent, Aranjuez is included in each and every one of the eight criteria established by the Directives for cultural properties.

I. Aranjuez exhibits a considerable exchange of influences over a span of time, in a specific cultural area, with regard to the development of monumental arts and the creation of landscape. **(criterion ii)**

II. Aranjuez offers a splendid example of diverse architectural styles and varied landscapes which illustrates significant stages in human history. **(criterion iv)**

III. Aranjuez is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture, that has become vulnerable due to the irreversible disappearance in this century of the courtesans who made it possible. **(criterion v)**

## VAL DE LOIRE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (FRANCE)

Inscription: 2000 Criteria: i, ii, iv

### Déclaration de valeur

Les paysages du Val de Loire sont présentés à l'inscription au Patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco au titre de paysages culturels. Le fleuve fait partie de ces paysages autant que sa vallée, car s'il a été aménagé de longue date par ses riverains, notamment par la construction de ses fameuses levées, il n'a jamais été dénaturé et trouve aujourd'hui un regain d'intérêt qui le situe au centre des préoccupations du Plan Loire Grandeur Nature.

Ces paysages sont présentés au titre de paysages culturels parce qu'ils appartiennent à l'une des aires culturelles européennes majeures de rencontres et d'influences entre la Méditerranée italienne, la France et les Flandres, pays qui ont vu émerger, à la Renaissance, la civilisation paysagère de la modernité. C'est là en effet que, conjointement à l'apparition du mot "paysage" lui-même en Europe, les développements originaux d'organisation de l'espace et de la nature apparus dans cette aire commencèrent à faire l'objet de représentations littéraires, picturales et jardinières qui les érigèrent en modèles esthétiques et explicitement paysagers, conditions requises pour que l'on puisse parler de paysages culturels (Berque, 1995).

L'apport le plus original de cette époque fut la métamorphose des jardins de subsistance simplement ornés de fleurs en jardins proprement esthétiques. Cette métamorphose accompagna celle des grandes forteresses moyenâgeuses en châteaux de plaisance et d'agrément. Les modèles d'un style nouveau qui apparurent alors et qui allaient passer à la postérité sous le nom de jardins "à la française", furent bientôt célébrés par les écrivains et les poètes. Leurs oeuvres véhiculèrent ces modèles à travers la France et l'Europe, puis, plus tard, jusque dans les deux Amériques. Le mouvement né de l'Humanisme de la Renaissance sur les bords de la Loire se poursuivit sans rupture jusqu'à nos jours, où ces paysages restent une des premières destinations touristiques du monde.

Quant aux représentations picturales des paysages ligériens, elles se limitèrent dans un premier temps au dessin et à la gravure mais connurent un renouveau à la période romantique avec Delacroix et principalement Turner, qui fut alors le peintre majeur de la Loire. C'est également à cette époque que les représentations émanant de géographes et de grands voyageurs se firent de plus en plus nombreuses. Enfin, avec l'avènement de la photographie, le Val de Loire fit l'objet de représentations si nombreuses que son renom s'étendit à la planète entière.

Ainsi naquit le mythe ligérien, qui joua et joue encore un si grand rôle dans le maintien de l'exemplarité, de l'authenticité et de l'intégrité des monuments et des paysages du Val.

Ce mythe, qui considéra si longtemps la Loire comme une reine en son royaume, prit au cours de l'histoire d'autres figures. Nous en retiendrons principalement deux. En premier lieu celle de la seconde Renaissance ligérienne, au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle, qui vit dans la Loire un modèle achevé de grandeur nationale. En second lieu celle de notre époque, qui découvre dans la Loire le dernier fleuve libre d'Europe, figure rassemblant dans un même respect et une même admiration historiens, scientifiques, artistes et amateurs de pittoresque. Pour les historiens, la Loire demeure un lieu de mémoire emblématique irremplaçable. Pour les scientifiques, c'est un nouveau monde à explorer et à mieux connaître afin de garantir au fleuve sa souveraine liberté tout en profitant de ses bienfaits. Pour les artistes elle est ce "monde d'essence poétique", selon le mot de Lanoux (Lanoux, 1958), si justement symbolique de la sensibilité contemporaine à l'égard des paysages (Berque, 1991). Pour les amateurs de pittoresque, c'est aussi un autre monde, source des émotions les plus diverses devant ses spectacles surprenants, impressionnants, sublimes, parfois terriblement angoissants, ou, à l'extrême opposé, prospères et accueillants, et que l'on désignait autrefois sous les termes de "riants" et de "bucoliques". Spectacles en un mot toujours renaissants, à l'image des métamorphoses du grand fleuve qui les fédère.

## **TOKAJ WINE REGION HISTORIC CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (HUNGARIA)**

Inscription: 2002 Criteria: iii, v

### **a) Statement of the significance of the natural / cultural property**

The landscape of the Tokaji Wine Region - where this princely wine is produced for hundreds of years - is uniquely various and wonderful, showing up a special cultural value that has been elaborated and saved for us through the organic transforming work of people living in symbiosis with this area.

"For a country with one tongue and one manner is weak and shall fall. Therefore I command thee, my son, to aid aliens in good will and to hold them in high esteem, so that they shalt stay under thy wings rather than seek shelter elsewhere. " These words of admonishment, written by the first King of Hungary, Saint Stephen (1000-1038) to his son, have resounded through the course of Hungarian history.

In every era, peoples arrived and settled in the Carpathian Basin, bringing their own cultures with them. Kabars and Pechenegs, Jazygians and Cumanians, Saxons and Swabians, Ruthenes and Poles, Serbs and Romanians, Armenians and Jewish.

Who knows if there is a country in Europe which gave the peace of a new home to more peoples than Hungary? And who knows if there is a wine region that has profited from the skill of so many peoples as Tokaj has?

The settlement structure harmonises with the land in both its scale and internal structure within the proposed property and buffer zone. There is a rich and valuable stock of historic monuments which is an architectural documentation of the traditional agrarian land use and way of living. The area has been continuously populated since medieval times which is illustrated by overlapping material from different periods in the individual settlements, their ancient monuments and groups of buildings.

The grapes are grown in the vineyard, but the wine is made in the cellar. This is simple enough, but cellars and wineries may vary greatly in appearance, depending on the type of wine made in them. This is especially true for a wine region like Tokaj, shaped by centuries of tradition and long-established local wine specialties. The cellar, today superseded by the winery, has no doubt become the characteristic type of building across the Foothills of the Tokaji Wine Region.

Here it has evolved through the centuries in very different ways than in other parts of Hungary.

The construction of most cellars in the Foothills of the Tokaji Wine Region took place between the mid-1500s to the late 17th century, during the period of the region's ascendancy.

Beyond the fact that cellars are typical architectural elements in the settlements of the wine region, the princely Rákóczi Wine-Cellar at Sáropatak and the Ungvári Wine-Cellar at Sátoraljaújhely deserve special attention.

The unique significance of Tokaji Wine Region was recognised very early. The emperor Charles VI (Charles III Hungarian king) declared the area almost the same as the property plus buffer zone to be a closed wine region, the first of this kind in the world. The legal declaration of the borders of Tokaji Wine Region dates back nearly for four centuries.

Through the course of history, Tokaji has received accolades from such dignitaries of art as Beethoven, Rossini, Liszt, Schubert, and Goethe. Although the commitment of these geniuses to the wine of the Foothills of the Tokaji Wine Region turned out to be invaluable, the deposition of crowned "celebrities" have had even more clout.

Of special impact was the publicity stirred by Louis XIV, the Sun King, when he commanded that the festive royal table never be without Tokaji. He was also the author of the well-known aphorism "C'est le roi des vins et le vin des rois", "This is the king of wines, and the wine of kings." The French monarchs' love of Tokaji proved to be more than just a passing fad. Even Napoleon III, the last emperor, and Empress Eugenie, ordered 30-40 Gönc barrels of the wine for the Court every year.

The success of Tokaji is proverbial on Russian soil, where it listed Peter the Great and Empress Elizabeth Petrovna in the ranks of its most faithful customers. By contrast, few people know that Gustav III, King of Sweden, never had any other wine to drink. Louis XV and Frederick the Great tried to outdo one another in the excellence of the vintages they stocked when they treated Voltaire or Dumas to some Tokaji.

The papal devotion to the wine is an even older tradition. The first Pope to make a famous declaration was Pius IV, who was driven by a sip of a sweet wine from Tállya to exclaim at the Synod of Trident, "This wine is worthy of the Supreme Priest of God!" Pius X probably had a sweet spot for Tokaji as well. He went so far as to break Vatican mores when he ruled that even previously opened bottles were acceptable on the papal table-provided that the wine in question was Tokaji.

The holy annunciation with the greatest impact of all, often quoted to this day, left the lips of Benedict XIV when he received a gift of Tokaji from Maria Theresa: "Happy is the Queen who sent thee, happy is the soil that hath grown thee, and happy am I who drink thee."

## BAM AND ITS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (Iran)

Inscription: 2007 Criteria: ii, iii, iv, v

### 2a. Statement of significance

The Citadel of Bam (Arg-e Bam) is considered as *the largest extant mud brick complex of its type in the world which has kept its traditional architecture and town planning undisturbed by alien elements until now*. While by the early 20th century its inhabitant had gradually started to move outside its walls by then useless for defensive purposes, its most important symbolic features have kept being used not only up to the day they were severely damaged by the earthquake (26 December 2003), but even now.

These were the Cathedral Mosque (Masjed-e Jāme' / Congregational Mosque), the Master of the Time Well (Chāh-e Sāheb-e Zamān) and the Religious Theatre (Tekiyeh).

Some locals, bound to Old Iranian traditions, used the height of the upper fort to salute the arrival of the New Year. The Arg has thus remained alive through its most powerful religious and national symbolic elements. The reorientation of the function of some of the now useless buildings towards new usage - such as the transformation of the Ice-House into an amphitheatre and that of the Stable into an Exhibition Hall (see below 3a. Description, 1) - has also helped to the revival of these buildings and thus to that of the whole Arg.

For all these reasons the inhabitants of Bam together with the Iranian people, many specialists and art lovers request the revival of the Bam ensemble.

Bam as a symbol of men's victory over a hostile environment can also be considered as unique in his own case. Not only because it has a complex system of underground irrigation system leading to an agricultural land use network in harmony with its built area - both also present in other parts of West Asia -, but also because of *its ingenious use of the earthquake fault for the creation of that surrounding*. It seems that only in Achaemenid Egypt (6th to 4th cent. B. C.) and on the southern shores of the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf a very few number of roughly similar complexes exist (see the following section, 2b. comparative analysis and 3. b. History and Development).

The "diverse tangible and intangible heritage resources of Bam also express values associated with the long and complex history of the city. The heritage of Bam and its surrounding are a cultural landscape composed of the desert environment, ingenious water use, management and distribution systems, (e.g. *qanāts*), agricultural land use, gardens, and built environment."

## IWAMI GINZAN SILVER MINE AND ITS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (JAPAN)

Inscription: 2007, 2010 Criteria: ii, iii, v

### 3.b Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Value as testimony to the exchange of goods and cultural communications

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine produced a large amount of silver in the 16th and 17th centuries and, by transmitting its technologies to mines throughout Japan that were developed later, ushered in the epoch of mass production of gold and silver in Japan. Its influences reached not only East Asian countries but also as far as Europe, producing a tremendous driving force for a significant stage in the history of East- West exchanges of goods and communication among civilizations. As such, the property is a mine site exhibiting outstanding universal value.

#### a. Significance in vitalizing trade in East Asia

From the 16th century to the early 17th century, the silver produced by the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine enjoyed high regard in the trade because of the large production quantity and excellent quality, and momentum increased for silver to prevail as the common currency for the trade in East Asia. As the mining technology spread to mines throughout Japan, Japanese silver was produced in large quantities and flowed into the East Asian trading bloc, facilitating the exchange between Japanese silver and Chinese silk within the region.

Furthermore, it brought about the equalized goldsilver exchange rates across the region, satisfied the silver demand within China, and led to the establishment of the silver-standard system.

**b. Significance in promoting exchange of cultural contacts with Europe**

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine is the only mine in Japan that was known to European people in the 16th century and this international exposure laid the foundation for the reputation of Japan as the “kingdom of silver”. Especially during the first half of the 16th century, when the silver produced at the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine accounted for most of the silver production in Japan, it came to be known in other countries by the name of “plate somo” after the name of the village, Sama, where the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine was located. Some maps of East Asia that were published in Europe in the mid-16th century had an indication of the location of the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine as the kingdom of silver mine or the island of silver.

The silver produced at the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine attracted the Europeans who, in pursuit of gold, silver and spices, were expanding their range of activities beyond the limits of their own civilizations during the 16th-17th centuries, known for the Age of Discovery, and they expedited their participation in Asian trade opportunities. As a result, trade activities rapidly expanded beyond the regional level to involve Europe and played an important role in promoting the exchange of different goods and expanding cultural contacts between East and West.

**Value as an archaeological site to prove the silver production by traditional techniques**

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, *inter alia* the area containing the silver mine site, contains extremely important archaeological sites that show how the silver production was established in the 16th century based upon the cupellation refining technique that had been traditional to East Asia and how an excellent operation system evolved through the assemblage of labor-intensive small businesses ranging from digging to refining, successfully producing a large amount of high quality silver.

With approximately 600 mine shafts, each of which is evidence of meticulous manual digging seeking for ore veins, the property displays a good representation of the stages in transition from numerously dug small open pits to the mine shafts. In addition, stepped terraces that were made in the immediate vicinity of these diggingrelated remains contain more than 1000 well-preserved sites of the small residenceworkshops where processes from ore dressing to refining were carried out consecutively in a manual industry production method.

Triggered by the success of the silver production at the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, these techniques and the management system spread rapidly to other mines throughout Japan that were developed after the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine. This brought about the exceptional prosperity of silver production in the history of Japan.

Furthermore, the political and economic isolation of Japan during the Edo Period impeded the introduction of technologies developed in Europe during the Industrial

Revolution and this, coupled with the exhaustion of commercially viable silver-ore deposits, resulted in the cessation of mining activities by traditional technologies in the area in the second half of the 19th century, leaving the site with well-preserved archaeological traces of those activities.

In addition, it is because the traditional mining techniques had undergone unique development at the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and other mines in pre-modern Japan and because Japan had already established a production system of its own that the new technologies introduced from Europe in the late 19th century took root smoothly, laying out the important foundation for the epoch-making industrial development that followed.

**Value as cultural landscape to represent the whole land-use system related to the silver mine**

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine shows the silver mine operation in its entirety without missing a part, ranging from silver production to transportation, a sequence of operations

that had been carried out for almost 400 years from the initiation of the development in the early 16th century to the closure of the mine in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. As such, it exhibits outstanding universal value as a cultural landscape to show the unique land-use system related to the silver mine. As will be explained in detail below, a series of the archaeological sites related to the silver mine constitutes both the “relict landscape” representing the entirety of land-use that has been discontinued and the “continuing landscape” in the sense that parts of the functions originating from the times of the silver mine are still inherited and carried on in the daily lives and livelihoods of the local people.

**a. Significance as a “relict landscape”**

In order for the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine to supply a large quantity of silver to East Asia, not only the mine itself but also the various social systems and social infrastructures that supported them were necessary.

At the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, there remain archaeological sites of the complete ensemble of social infrastructures that show the whole image of the silver mine operation from silver production to transportation, including “the silver mine site and mining towns” directly related to silver production -- the mine, settlements, fortresses and administration offices -- the “Kaidō” that transported silver ore and other materials, and the “ports and port towns” that were necessary for the shipment of silver ore, silver and other materials. At the same time, they show how the past social systems that have been discontinued used to work in relation to silver production, daily lives, administration, religious beliefs, etc.

At the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, the digging of silver ore was carried out manually in mine shafts that were characteristically small and numerous; dressing, smelting and refining were done in small production units that were set up in the immediate vicinities of these mine shafts and that consistently and consecutively worked in a manual-industry style. A great number of such small businesses operated, collectively producing a tremendous quantity of silver.

A large amount of fuel, such as the firewood which was needed for smelting and refining, was supplied until the mid-19th century under appropriate forest resource management, with the natural advantage of having a wet, temperate climate to nurture forest growth.

As a result, forests such as secondary forests of evergreen trees and broadleaved trees have remained in the mountain areas surrounding the silver mine until today; now a wide range of the areas containing the related archaeological sites are covered with forested landscapes as they used to be before the mine development started.

As is stated above, part of the outstanding universal value of the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine lies in the fact that the land-use system related to the mine operation at its peak remains in its entirety, while clearly maintaining organic relations between individual elements, and in its original condition under the cover of mountain forests.

It is therefore justifiable as a cultural landscape, especially a “relict landscape”.

**b. Significance as a “continuing landscape”**

In the former mining towns of Ōmori Town and Ginzan Town located in the northern valley of the silver mine site and around the port towns of Tomogaura, Okidomari and Yunotsu, buildings and agricultural plots that are in use today as part of the daily lives of local citizens exist on lots that are based upon the original land divisions. The Shrines and temples that exist within these settlements are still revered as objects and places of worship by the local people, retaining the same functions as when the silver mine was in operation.

In addition, the transportation routes connecting the silver mine and ports, which saw the development of human settlements and agricultural lands along them, continued to play an important role as daily communication roads for local people even after transportation of silver ore, silver and other materials stopped. The Port infrastructures likewise play important roles today as fishing ports to support the daily lives and livelihoods of local people in contemporary society.

On the other hand, religious rituals and festivals whose origins are associated with silver mine development have been inherited by the local people from generation to generation, including annual festivals and rituals at the Sahimeyama-jinja Shinto shrine and the Unoshima Itsukushima Shinto shrine and traditional songs such as “Iwami Ginzan Makiagebushi” reminiscent of the heyday of the silver mine. Various intangible elements are associated with the different tangible elements that were formed by the mine development.

As is shown above, the daily lives and livelihoods that are being led by local people today inherit parts of the functions whose origins are associated with the mine development, representing the outstanding universal value of the property as a “continuing landscape”.

### **LE MORNE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (MAURITIUS)**

Inscription: 2008 Criteria: iii, vi



### 3.b Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

**The Le Morne Cultural Landscape is a symbol of resistance to slavery.**

The history of *maroonage* that is linked to the Cultural Landscape of the Le Morne Brabant Peninsula, with its prominent mountain of impressive natural monument qualities and the significant role of Mauritius in the slave trade, slavery and maroonage, makes Le Morne an ideal focal point not only for celebrating resistance to slavery in the south western Indian Ocean but also in the world. Furthermore, Le Morne is a statement of the achievement of marginalized, dominated and oppressed people, who by their human spirit and sheer determination achieved freedom, independence, dignity and respect for their values and cultures. It symbolizes the birth of a people, the Creoles of Mauritius, a parallel process common to all Creole societies where slavery has played a major role in nation building and shaping. Le

Morne is symbolic of its birth and still guards the memory not only of shared suffering through the slave trade, but it also reminds us of suffering of all those who have experienced or are still experiencing oppression of humankind by humankind the world over.

The commemoration and institutionalisation of the memory of heroes who stood against the dominating system of oppressors enable us to understand more fully the impacts of slavery and how to mitigate them; furthermore, it draws attention to the widespread discrimination that is still manifested in today's world through persisting slavery, forced labour, including child labour and trade in humans – and our universal responsibility to counteract crimes against humanity.

While Mauritius was one of the key slave trading centres of the West Indian Ocean Slave Route, Le Morne stands as a monument of national identity in the local context, with a significant segment of Mauritians being descendants of slaves or those who suffered from unfair labour practices and originated from various regions in Africa, Madagascar, India and South-East Asia. The natural monument raises universal awareness of the tragedy of the slave trade and slavery. Simultaneously, it highlights the principles of liberty, equality and the dignity of human rights and celebrates the evolution of multiculturalism as a direct effect of the slave trade that has shaped many societies the world over.

These factors altogether make Le Morne a unique site of commemoration against slavery and the resistance to oppression. It stands as a guiding light in the emergence of peaceful multicultural societies wherever slavery has occurred and which rests on the most basic and important principles of humanity without which lasting peace is not possible.

During the preparation of the Dossier, a Mauritian Creole<sup>81</sup> wrote the following statement. It is presented as a heartfelt and eloquent expression of the essence of Le Morne:

*Why is the landscape of Outstanding Universal Value? Why is its recognition as such so important? In terms of the **Slave Trade** Mauritius is located within the Indian Ocean where it has primarily during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries received slaves from a great diversity of origins. In terms of **Slavery** the people uprooted from their original countries were enslaved within the Mauritian plantations whereby their status was reduced to that of "objects" as regulated within the "Code Noir", denying them human status, and condemning them to servile status of the worst kind. The slaves resorted to marooning to manifest their humanity, in doing so denying the non-human status ascribed to them by the colonizers during the period through which slavery was practiced in Mauritius.*

*While it is true that there are written statements that slaves sought refuge onto Le Morne, and the archaeological evidence corroborates these written statements, the essential part of the message of Le Morne, namely that slaves preferred death over becoming slaves again, is largely present in local oral testimonies presented in a variety of forms. These do not tell us conclusively whether there were really slaves that preferred to*

*throw themselves off mountain cliffs because they preferred liberty. Yet the living legacy thrives in the vast body of intangible heritage spawned by the mountain and, whether it can be proven scientifically or not, the essence remains the same: that there were maroons on top of Le Morne and that they preferred to jump off instead of becoming slaves again. Thus, Le Morne becomes **the** symbol of resistance to slavery and the quest for freedom and human dignity in the country.*

*The message of Le Morne resonates firstly with the members of the Creole community (as it is their founding myth), with Mauritians of all origins and different walks of life, and members of the African Diaspora and humanity in general. Le Morne hence stands out as a beacon of light to the world, bearing a message of love and hope to humanity and eternalizing the victory of the human spirit over adversity.*

*Creole Societies are a direct legacy of slavery; they exist around the World where Slavery was practised just like in Mauritius. In terms of the evolution in the meaning assigned to the term "Creole" in the Mauritian context, during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the word "Creole", referred to a European person born on an island, later it was used to refer to all people born on an island – black or white. Finally, the terminology evolved to refer to a group of people of African and slave descent, which in the case of Mauritius also included people of Asian descent. Attached to this definition until the 1970's was a kind of taboo steeped in shame, and very few people even among the descendants of slaves wanted to be identified with this group.*

*The reason is plain to see: historians from traditional backgrounds have consistently portrayed slaves as uncivilized people, lacking manners, people that needed to be looked after, brutes that needed to be tamed and civilized. They were described as a group of apathetic and passive people that could not take responsibility for their own behaviour or even their own kin, and consequently had to be looked after. This pervasive propaganda did not give a sense of pride to this People.*

*This state of affairs persisted until new social and revisionist historians started to write about the slaves, celebrating their spirit of resistance, creativity and survival – often against extreme odds. In this new historiography, maroons as well as slaves were no longer portrayed as brutes and criminals but as freedom fighters and active people. The new perspective evolved together with commemorations of slavery and with broader society acknowledging that slavery was a crime against humanity. Out of all this Le Morne emerges as a symbol of the re-birth of the Creole community. **This re-birth is closely associated with the belief in the story of what occurred on top of Le Morne.***

*The common legend that is associated with the mountain is one of the reasons why Le Morne has been retained as **the** place of resistance in Mauritius.*

*This belief is that when the maroons that had settled on the mountain saw a troop of British soldiers making their way towards them, not realizing that the soldiers had been sent to inform them that Slavery was abolished, the maroons threw themselves off the high cliffs to their deaths, hence preferring death and freedom to a life of enslavement.*

*By choosing to believe in something, one gives that belief authority. Hence the myth of origin is created to give a sense of power to the Creole community and to heal the wounds left by slavery over the generations.*

*The Mountain thus becomes a symbol of power, the regained power of the Creole community. Keeping the mountain intact, signifies keeping the regained power of the Creole community intact, so that threats to universal values of dignity and freedom are not violated once more, this time in the guise of development that is a direct threat to the essence of the Mountain. Keeping the mountain and its vicinity intact also symbolizes keeping the idea of Freedom and Dignity intact.*

*If unhealed, wounds keep us living in the past. As one member of the Creole society puts it: "Le Morne represents moving away from our wounds; and our culture evolves from its emphasis on wounds, and by letting go of the negative power, we become "unwounded" and self-empowered."*

*The Creoles of Mauritius - referred to as people of slave/African ancestry in this context - have created an official ceremony for themselves in which the community calls back its spirit from the past and releases the negative influence of all its wounds. By celebrating and commemorating the Abolition of slavery at Le Morne Mountain the Creoles have created a ritual, which enacts a message of forgiveness that in an official way can be a passage for establishing a new beginning:*

*Thus Le Morne Mountain symbolically acts like the entrance gate of the Creole community into the island of Mauritius. It also acts like a bridge/umbilical cord between the African continent, Madagascar and India. For the Creole people of Mauritius mainly, but equally relevant to all slave descendants as well as the descendants of those who perpetrated the inhuman practice of slavery, Le Morne Mountain represents:*

- *A Holy Mountain, because of the legend and feelings associated with it.*
- *A Temple, where rituals have been created and are enacted in order to heal the wounds related to Slavery.*
- *A Fortress protecting the idea of Freedom, Liberty and Dignity – for all people.*
- *A Sanctuary where people can go and connect/reflect with/upon the spirit of Freedom and Liberty.*

- *A Shrine to the recognition and admittance of crimes against humanity and, above all, the ability of humans to forgive as a stepping stone to new beginnings.*

*Symbolically, confession liberates our spirits from past fears and negative thought patterns. The need to purge our spirits of guilt-ridden memories is stronger than our need for silence, no matter which "side of the coin" you come from. The sweet energy of healings pours into our energy system every time we break the authority that fear has over our lives and replace it with a more empowered sense of self. These are the sentiments reflected in the artistic responses in the songs, paintings, segas, reggae, films, post cards and literary works including novels, poems, and plays.*

## ORKHON VALLEY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (MONGOLIA)

Inscription: 2004 Criteria: ii, iii, iv

### 2(a) Statement of significance.

1. The Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape provides striking evidence of the way in which successive nomadic cultures were based around this area and were anchored to a series of fixed points of strategic, ecological, political, economical, mythological or religious importance. The nomadic cultures of Central Asia have made immense contributions to the world. For many thousands of years they have been the main cultures over a very large part of Asia. Through trade, conquest and the transmission of ideas, they have also greatly influenced the great sedentary cultures on which they abut. In Central Asia, vast highlands of semiarid steppes extend over thousands of kilometres surrounded by dense forests of the south Siberian taiga, Lake Baikal and northern China. The nomadic tribes from which the Mongols descended to inhabit these huge Eurasian steppes. Their lands are not suited for agriculture so they raise horses, sheep, goats, cows and camels. Nomads spent their lives moving their herds from one area of pasture to another, sometimes covering vast distances within a year. Over time this nomadic style created a very unique culture, which is now recognized as "nomadic" culture. The wide expanse of Central Asia which is in part constituted by the territory of today's Mongolia, represents the cradle of nomadic civilization whose contours have over time evolved into a classical tradition. One of the most mobile and powerful forces in history, the Central Asian nomads, including the Mongols played an important role in the history of Eurasia and in the ethnic, economical, political and cultural links between the peoples and the countries. The nomads, the sailors of the steppes, constituted the human link in commercial intercourse.

2. The cultural landscape of the Orkhon Valley demonstrates these features of nomadic life exceptionally well. Despite inevitable changes, the Landscape is remarkably unchanged, particularly in the Khangai Nuruu National Park, south of modern Kharhorin. Although modern features have obtruded into the landscape, the way in which it is used is still essentially nomadic, with Herdsmen moving their flocks across it.

3. Because of its location on trade routes, freely available water, reasonably sheltered nature, and its great size, overtime the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape has clearly been of exceptional importance to the nomadic cultures of Central Asia, and has been at the heart of several of them. Although nomadic cultures operated over vast landscapes, they also needed fixed points around which they revolved and to which they returned. These points could be cities, which housed the crafts they used, provided centres for their governments, or were centres of trade and commerce; these points could also be religious sites such as temples or culturally important sites such as funerary areas. The archaeological and historical sites in the Valley demonstrate this.

4. In the Orkhon Valley, there are also numerous cultural and archaeological vestiges dating from the Palaeolithic period through the Bronze and Iron Ages. In prehistoric times, Stone Age activity at Moiltyn Am and "Orkhon -7" show that the

Valley was settled about 40.000 years ago. Later in prehistory, extensive barrow cemeteries [e.g. between Kharkorin and Tuvkhun] show that the area was attracting high - status use.

5. The Orkhon valley was very suitable for settlement by nomadic people and empires, and was settled successively by the Huns, the Turkic peoples, the Uighurs, the Kidans, and finally the Mongols. Within the Cultural Landscape are a number of Archaeological Protection zones safeguarding the most important of these fixed points. These include important Turkish memorial sites of the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> centuries, the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> century Uighur capital of Khar Balgas as well as the ancient Mongol imperial capital of Kharakorum. Erdene Zuu, the earliest surviving Mongol Buddhist monastery, and the hermitage monastery of Tuvkhun, as well as a number of other sites are also protected in this way. (see appendix) :

a/. The extensive funerary area around the monuments of Bilge Khan and Kultegin demonstrate the monuments are indeed the first historic record of the Turks. The monuments themselves are preserved, as are the extensive remains of the funerary area around them.

b/. The vast city of Khar Balgas, stretching over 50 sq kms, was the capital of the Uighur Empire in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries .It acted as a trading and cultural centre, and a link between China, Central Asia and Europe. The remains of the defences are spectacular, and the rest of the city is a well-preserved archaeological site with major earthworks.

c/. The Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape is the homeland of the Mongolian people. It is the place from which they came and it was the capital of their successive far-flung Empires. From the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Valley was the centre of the Mongol Empire, the greatest empire the world has ever known. Kharkorum, founded in 1220 on the orders of Chinggis Khan, was the capital of the empire in the 13<sup>th</sup> century during the time of Chinggis's son Ugudei. From the late 14<sup>th</sup> century onward it was a centre of trade as a Silk Road crossroads. In the city itself there are remains from a number of satellite palace sites in the Valley. Furthermore, Chinggis's descendents - Guyug Khan, Munkh Khan, Togoontomor Khan, Batmunkh Khan and Duke Gersenzjalar- all resided in Kharakorum, declaring it a centre of politics, from which they led the country.

d/. Beginning in 16<sup>th</sup> century the OVCL was the centre of Mongol Buddhism .The well-preserved site Erdene Zuu monastery and the archaeological site of Shankh monastery are the earliest monastic sites in Mongolia. Erdene Zuu, which was built on the orders of Avtai Sain Khan-one of Chinggis's descendents-, is also of exceptional interest as its plan is unique and mirrors Mongol town and palace planning.

e/. The hermitage monastery of Tuvkhun is striking evidence of the strength of Mongol Buddhism and is a monument to the life and work of one of its most outstanding figures, Under Gegeen Zanabazar. Chinggis's descendent Under Gegeen Zanabazar first initiated the establishment of Mongolian Buddhist monasteries and temples and was the leader of Mongolian Buddhism. He created images of Buddha that had very distinctive features compared to the images of Buddha created in India

and Tibet. He was a meritorious person in Mongolian religion and art as well as the first Bogd Gegeen, who renovated Tibetan Buddhism.

6. Designated as a "Cultural Landscape", the Orkhon Valley provides evidence of the interaction between humans and their natural environment, through traditional techniques of sustainable grassland use involving a specific spiritual relation to nature. The continued nomadic use of the landscape, involving the preservation of its associated traditions and technologies is vital to the preservation of the natureland cultural heritage of the Orkhon Valley.

The Intangible Cultural Heritage properties of the Orkhon Valley pertain to nomadic culture, involving the nomadic lifestyle and its organic relationship with the grassland, as well as to religious culture, specifically the monastic tradition and its associated artistic and intellectual culture.

In defining the intangible heritage properties of the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape whose protection is to be prioritised, care has been taken not to prescribe highly specific customs, practices, and knowledge - as to do so would be to discourage the natural development of the culture - but instead to identify the relatively broad traditions whose survival is dependent on the continued existence of nomadic or religious cultures. The strong intangible culture of the nomadic pastoralists that expresses itself in, for instance annual festivals, music, oral literature, horse-riding skills, felt making, religious culture and also in the vital meanings and associations with which the landscape is imbued.

## **LAVAU, VINEYARD TERRACES (SWITZERLAND)**

Inscription: 2007 Criteria: iii, iv, v

### **Projet de déclaration de valeur universelle exceptionnelle**

Lavaux, vignoble en terrasses face au lac et aux alpes, est candidat à l'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO dans la catégorie « paysages culturels ». La Confédération helvétique a déposé sa candidature au début 2006.

Du premier regard sur le vignoble de Lavaux se dégage un indéniable sentiment d'harmonie. Témoignage exceptionnel d'une civilisation qui a su, à travers les siècles, conserver un dynamisme constant et une vie authentique, ce vignoble en terrasses a retenu l'attention des artistes, qu'ils soient peintres, photographes, poètes, écrivains ou cinéastes. Tous ont dit la beauté et la lumière de ce paysage, leur émotion devant le lien qui l'unit à son décor naturel, le lac et les Alpes. La Fête des vigneron, qui se déroule, depuis 1797, quatre fois par siècle, est l'espace où les habitants du lieu expriment leur attachement profond à cette terre rocailleuse et au travail de la vigne.

Le labeur des hommes a, au cours des siècles, façonné le paysage de Lavaux: développement de la viticulture sur de très fortes pentes, construction de terrasses sur plusieurs centaines de mètres de dénivelé et sur une quinzaine de kilomètres de long.

Cette extraordinaire architecture de murs et de terrasses ne déploie toute sa richesse que si l'oeil se pose également sur les vieux bourgs et les anciennes bâtisses au coeur des grandes propriétés, sur le réseau de routes, de chemins et d'escaliers qui desservent les parcelles, et même sur les infrastructures modernes telles que l'autoroute et les voies de chemins de fer. Ce paysage construit est hautement représentatif d'une oeuvre humaine complexe parfaitement intégrée à son milieu naturel. Avec soin et persévérance, patience et obstination, ses habitants ont développé un remarquable savoir-faire qui leur a permis de gérer ce patrimoine dans le respect des valeurs traditionnelles de la viticulture tout en



usant des moyens techniques les plus modernes. Lavaux est l'illustration vivante d'une période importante de l'histoire et du présent socio-économique du pays.

La conservation d'un territoire comme celui de Lavaux – quelque 900 hectares, admirablement situés, très convoités, accueillant une forte densité de population – est exceptionnelle. Elle l'est d'autant plus que Lavaux est situé, d'une part, dans un tissu urbain quasi continu le long du bassin lémanique, et, d'autre part, dans une zone subissant de plein fouet la très forte pression des agglomérations de Lausanne à l'ouest et de Vevey-Montreux à l'est.

La sauvegarde de ce territoire est le résultat de la mise en place d'une législation rigoureuse, que les citoyens du canton de Vaud ont approuvée et soutenue par voie référendaire. Les mesures prises sur les plans légaux, économiques et techniques ont permis de sauvegarder et de protéger cet ensemble, vulnérable certes, mais témoin unique, de la maîtrise de l'homme sur la nature. La législation protégeant le vignoble de Lavaux s'organise sur plusieurs niveaux. On distingue tout d'abord les lois fédérales protégeant les paysages et les ensembles naturels et construits. A cela s'ajoutent les lois et règlements cantonaux, notamment sur le vignoble, sur les zones naturelles ainsi que sur les bourgs et les bâtiments.

Cet appareil légal est complété par des dispositions communales relatives à tous les types d'interventions sur le territoire et ses constructions. En outre et surtout, le Bien proposé à l'inscription a fait l'objet de deux votations populaires qui ont abouti à une législation spéciale portant sur une conservation renforcée de ce territoire.

La mise en place d'une telle protection, résultant d'une volonté exprimée par voie démocratique, est suffisamment rare pour être soulignée.

Les mesures protégeant Lavaux sont en place depuis une trentaine d'années. Elles ont permis la maîtrise de son urbanisation et ont favorisé la bonne conservation de ses constructions. L'authenticité d'un tel lieu n'est donc pas à rechercher dans ses constituants d'origine – il est difficile de les distinguer aujourd'hui – mais bien dans la constance avec laquelle les artisans de ce paysage ont oeuvré en respectant et suivant, au fil du temps, les mêmes principes d'aménagement de leur territoire. Le Bien proposé à l'inscription répond ainsi à l'un des principes fondamentaux de la Charte de Venise: le respect et la prise en compte des éléments que chaque époque apporte au monument, y compris les interventions récentes, justifiées par les nécessités d'entretien ainsi

que d'adaptation aux méthodes actuelles de la viticulture et aux modes de vie contemporains. L'harmonie paysagère que présente aujourd'hui le vignoble de Lavaux est la preuve évidente de la pérennité du concept de la culture en terrasses. On a conservé l'usage des matériaux d'origine, soit la pierre trouvée sur place ou transportée par bateau, tandis que la mise en oeuvre des maçonneries qui composent les murs a évolué avec le temps. Il n'en demeure pas moins que les besoins de la viticulture et l'étroite intégration à la morphologie très particulière de ce coteau escarpé sont toujours accompagnés des mêmes principes de construction.

Attestée depuis plusieurs siècles, la permanence d'une population se consacrant à la viticulture est un gage d'authenticité de ce terroir.

Il est encore aujourd'hui propriété d'une majorité de petits et moyens exploitants qui assurent l'ensemble du processus de culture et de vinification ainsi que la commercialisation de leurs produits. Le plant (cépage) de vigne traditionnel reste le Chasselas, dont on extrait l'un des meilleurs vins blancs secs de Suisse. Plusieurs crus ont obtenu des distinctions internationales. La qualité des produits de Lavaux s'explique par les soins qui leur sont apportés, par les conditions géologiques et pédologiques particulières et par un microclimat favorisé par l'exposition, la pente et la proximité du lac.

La tradition populaire parle des « trois soleils », soit le rayonnement direct, la chaleur emmagasinée dans les murs et le reflet du lac. Si, au cours des siècles, le paysage de Lavaux a été adapté au travail de ses habitants et à leur mode de vie, il n'en demeure pas moins que cet ensemble exceptionnel nous parvient aujourd'hui sans modification majeure de sa conception d'origine.

L'intégrité du « paysage culturel » de Lavaux se perçoit tout d'abord dans son environnement, soit dans le rapport qu'il entretient, avec le Léman et l'arc des Alpes qui l'enserme. L'importante présence du lac et des montagnes relègue au second plan l'impact visuel de l'urbanisation des secteurs qui bordent Lavaux à l'ouest (région lausannoise) et à l'est (agglomération de Vevey-Montreux).

Grâce à de constants efforts d'entretien et de rénovation, les constructions composant Lavaux – ses terrasses, ses bourgs, ses infrastructures – se présentent aujourd'hui dans un très bon état de conservation. Depuis le XIXe siècle, les terrasses, avec leurs voies d'accès et les aménagements d'écoulement des eaux, ainsi que les bancs rocheux qui émergent du sol ont fait l'objet de considérables travaux de consolidation, de restauration ainsi que de reconstruction. Ces chantiers, qui se poursuivent actuellement, ont pu se réaliser grâce à d'importants soutiens financiers des pouvoirs publics.

Les bourgs ainsi que les grandes bâtisses isolées ont, eux aussi, été régulièrement entretenus et restaurés. L'attention que les habitants portent au bâti traditionnel est favorisée par le fait que, la plupart du temps, les mêmes familles habitent les lieux depuis des siècles parfois. Les maisons ont ainsi pu conserver leurs fonctions d'origine, soit l'habitation des propriétaires, l'exploitation de la vigne et l'élaboration du vin.

L'avenir de la sauvegarde du vignoble en terrasses de Lavaux est confié à la Commission intercommunale d'urbanisme de Lavaux (CIUL) créée en 1973. Pour répondre aux exigences de la candidature, elle a constitué en son sein une « Commission UNESCO » représentant les quatorze communes touchées par le périmètre du Bien et par sa zone tampon. Cette commission est responsable d'un plan de gestion qui comprend les directives de sauvegarde du site et les mesures offrant la garantie que les qualités exceptionnelles du Bien seront conservées et mises en valeur par une politique de conservation dynamique et concertée entre toutes les parties concernées.

L'ensemble de ces considérations permet d'affirmer que le vignoble en terrasses de Lavaux répond bien aux critères de valeur exceptionnelle et universelle, et aux garanties d'une conservation dynamique de ses qualités, justifiant son inscription à la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

## 6.1 Picture material

### LANDSCAPES



**Photo 1 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

The shore of the Curonian Spit on the Baltic side is made of a not very high drift sand embankment dune (or "fore-dune") (5-15m) looking down upon a short beach.



**Photo 2 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

Between the small dunes on the Baltic shore and the great dunes on the Curonian lagoon, a flat and low plain named locally "palve" is forested mainly by pines and some birches.



**Photo 3 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

The shore of the Curonian Spit on the lagoon side is made of very high sandy dunes (50m), some large areas being without any vegetation.

#### **IMPORTANT BIRD FLYWAY**



**Photo 4 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

The Curonian Spit is the place of one of the major bird flyways in the world. The first ornithological station in the world has been created here, in Rossitten (today Rybachiy) by the German researcher Johannes Thienemann in 1901.



## ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE



**Photo 5 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

The architecture in Nida (municipality of Neringa) is quite homogeneous at the level of individual houses that are partially restorations of old traditional buildings or new constructions respecting their main characters (volumes, colours, materials). Nida was originally one of the fishermen's settlements, but it is now a large and flourishing centre of the municipality of Neringa with about 1500 inhabitants who live in modern buildings. The small "Old Quarter" consists of wooden houses, partly new, partly restored, partly reconstructed.



**Photo 6 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

This building is typical of a fisherman farmstead. It has been constructed in 1900 and, after restoration, transformed into an ethnographic museum.



**Photo 7 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

This is the “Jugendherberge”, i.e. the youth hostel from the German time, and it is one of its earliest examples, perhaps even the oldest still existing one. This building is one of the few remaining from the Prussian time. Within the municipality of Neringa, there is a debate whether to destroy or conserve it as a testimony of the Curonian Spit architecture and history.





**Photo 8 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

In the heart of Nida, this building is a cultural centre. Built during the Soviet Union, it has a typical architecture of its time. There is a debate within the municipality if it necessary to maintain it or to replace it with a modern cultural centre. Today many inhabitants of Nida would like to have it pulled down.



**Photo 9 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

In the municipality of Neringa, there still exist these houses from the Soviet times. As it was only allowed to build car parks in that place, people have added a first floor for their dwelling, that way respecting the regulation.



**Photo 10 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

The weathercocks are still very popular in the Curonian Spit as elements of decoration of private as well as official buildings. The weathercocks of the ships of the Curonian Spit named "kurenas" have been established in the middle of the 19th century by Rusne (Curonian) Lagoon Inspectorate. Originally they were just pieces of wooden planks painted in primary colours and put up at the masts of the boats on the order of the fishing authorities in 1844 so that they might recognize each boat.



## TOURIST FACILITIES



**Photo 11 gc (Kurshskaya Kosa NP, Ru)**

In order to help tourists to access the beaches of the Baltic Sea and to avoid erosion of the fore-dune, the two National Parks have developed a policy of visitors facilities as for example these stairs.



**Photo 12 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

In order to help tourists to better understand the high values of the Curonian Spit, the two National Parks have set up interpretation panels.



**Photo 13 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

In order to help tourists to have complete and adequate information on the spots of interest regarding restricted access as well forbidden activities in the Curonian Spit, the two National Parks have set up information panels.



**Photo 14 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

In order to facilitate a soft discovery of the Curonian Spit, a particular network of tracks for bicycles has been established.



## DUNES CONSERVATION



**Photo 15 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

Many villages of the Curonian Spit have had to move from place to place. They have been buried under the sand after the great deforestation from the 15th to the 16th centuries. This interpretation panel shows the example of the village of Nagliai, reconstructed three times between the 17th and the 19th centuries on the Lagoon side.



**Photo 16 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

The effects of the rough sea as well strong winds from the west are mainly responsible for the construction of the Curonian Spit. The fore-dune has to be continuously repaired by the staff of the National Parks. In recent years, they have been obliged to dedicate more working hours to these reparations than in previous years as the storms have been reported to be more frequent and violent.



**Photo 17 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

Following the traditional techniques, the staff of the two National Parks restores every year the coastal protection of the fore-dunes against sea storms by placing branches and stems of pine trees on the coastal side of the dunes.



**Photo 18 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

The protection of the main dunes on the Lagoon side is also needed as the trend is the decrease of the dunes altitude in relation with wind erosion. The technique of fastening branches and stems of pines in a grid like manner on the dunes helps to keep the drift sand in place.



## FIRE CONTROL



**Photo 19 gc (Kursiu Nerija NP, Lt)**

In the recent history of the Curonian Spit, two fires have occurred. One in the Russian part has affected 5 ha in 1995. The later more severe one burnt nearly 170 ha in the Lithuanian part (Smiltyne). A small area reserved for ecological exposition has been created by the Kursiu Nerija National Park in order to explain to the visitors the fire risks and the consequences. Important measures have been taken subsequently: firebreaks in the forest (as shown in the picture), observation system, organization of the fire fight, cooperation with the Russian National Park).

## SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE PROJECT



**Photo 20 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

The only great meadow of the Curonian Spit is located near at Rybachi (Russian part of the Curonian Spit). The area of the Ribachiy settlement is defined as a "recreational area" in the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park zoning. The meadow is actually used for grazing and hosts some plant species of interest. According to the Special Economic Zone Project it is foreseen to build a leisure complex of 938 luxury apartments with restaurants, swimming pools, parking lots etc. Local people and the Russian Greenpeace contest the construction.



**Photo 21 gc (Kurshskaja Kosa NP, Ru)**

As an integrated possibility for developing tourism, a private owner has constructed, in the Ribachiy village, some houses to rent together with other facilities (restaurants, playgrounds, etc). The buildings are built in the respect of the main features of the local architecture.

