



World Heritage
Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape

Management Plan



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA – REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH – OSZTRÁK KÖZTÁRSASÁG
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Management Plan
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World Heritage Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape Management Plan

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English version. The Management Plan for the cross-border World Heritage Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape is available in German, Hungarian and English.

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Volume “A”

World Heritage Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape Management Plan

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Volume "B": FERTŐ – HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK NATURE PROTECTION
MANAGEMENT PLAN



1. The Aim and Necessity of the Management Plan

Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape – Cross-border World Heritage

The nomination of Fertő / Neusiedlersee was submitted in the *cultural landscape category* by two State Parties, namely the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Hungary, as the World Heritage site has been divided by a state border since 1918. However, in terms of a geographically and historically uniform cultural landscape, the Fertő / Neusiedler See region illustrates quite impressively not only the integration of culture with nature but also the interaction between two civilisations. This is where we find a smooth transition between the cultural traditions and ways of life of western Hungary and eastern Austria, and this is what has made the nomination so important. It illustrates that frontiers are largely irrelevant for cultural landscapes as long as the history and achievements of people cultivating the land and respecting the ecological conditions generate a continuity of interaction between man and nature across political boundaries.

The Purpose of the Management Plan

The purpose of the Management Plan is to preserve, explore and integrate into development purposes all the values forming the basis for inscription on the World Heritage List and to establish and control the institutional system for the management of this World Heritage property.

To this end, the respective national and local authorities of the Austrian and Hungarian states have prepared a Management Plan for the conservation, utilisation and sustainable development of known and still undiscovered values in accordance with the requirements and recommendations of the World Heritage Convention.

The tasks of the Plan are to specify values, prospects and the strategy to be followed, as well as to define short, medium, and long-term objectives for the World Heritage property on the basis of existing Austrian and Hungarian laws, legal documents and local government decrees and with the joint resolve of the authorities concerned, in accordance with the national, regional and local government plans and their objectives and systems and instruments of implementation.

The main tasks are:

- to provide objectives for the management of the WHP so that the value is conserved and improved for all time
- to achieve a broad vision of the quality, significance, condition and potential of the WHP
- to increase public awareness of and interest in the WHP to ensure that WHP values will be understood
- to identify the cultural and economic benefits of the WHP
- to outline a sustainable approach for management and use of the WHP which balances all aspects of use (e.g. culture and nature conservation, regional development, tourism and farming)
- to propose a prioritised programme of action based on a holistic and strategic approach to conservation and development of the WHP
- to ensure the continuity of planning, scheduling and financing for future generations



The Need for the Plan

Preparation of the Management Plan is a precondition for acceptance of the region's World Heritage status.

Preparation of the Management Plan is a basic precondition for a series of issues:

- to secure publicity for the values,
- to provide the local, regional and national communities with a tool for continuous local monitoring of the realization of the objectives of the World Heritage Convention,
- to provide a basic document for the responsible management authorities,
- to support the conservation, development and dissemination of the values of the Fertő / Neusiedlersee cultural landscape for future generations through continuity of planning, programming and financing.

The World Heritage Committee emphasises the importance of Management Plans as an effective way of managing WHPs, especially when a number of different interests are involved.

The Status of the Plan

The Management Plan has advisory status and plays a strategic guiding and influencing role, but is not generally compulsory.

Austria

In the Austrian legislation the World Heritage property is regulated by the "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage including the Austrian Declaration" (Federal Law Gazette 60/1993). By ratifying this Convention Austria has committed itself to the documentation, protection and preservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites on its national territory. Under this legislation, measures having the potential to cause direct or indirect damage to the World Heritage are to be prohibited. There are no other laws directly concerned with the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The Management Plan is thus first and foremost a strategic plan that only derives its legally binding status through the laws and decrees passed by the federal, regional and local governments.

For this reason it is of decisive importance that the Management Plan is agreed with the local protagonists in the World Heritage area and ultimately supported and co-implemented by the latter. Adherence to the Management Plan is to be understood as a self-imposed obligation on the part of the local protagonists in the World Heritage area.

In this context the control and monitoring functions are not only exerted by the World Heritage Association and by UNESCO, but in particular through the democratic power of the public. In order to ensure this it is essential that public awareness of the World Heritage area is as high as possible and that the contents of the Management Plan are known to the general public. Only in this way can goals be called for, infringements noted and prevented and decisions supported and co-implemented.

Hungary

The status of the Management Plan in Hungary is different from that in Austria. The Hungarian legislation deals only tangentially with the concept of World Heritage. There is no law on World



Heritage status, nor on the procedural rules thereof. Only two ministerial decrees mention the World Heritage: decree 1/1998. (I.23.) KTM-MKM on the restrictions concerning advertisements, and decree 40/1999. (IV.23.) FVM on the planning councils, the requirement for settlement development plans and the requirement for construction plans with significant environmental impact to be submitted to the planning council headed by the minister responsible for building affairs. However, the opinion of the planning council is not binding on the permitting authority.

Thus, any Management Plan that is not restricted to individual protected cultural monuments or nature conservation areas can only be based on the owners' and/or communities' own decision, requiring self-regulation, competence and the will for enforcement. This legal situation is very democratic, but does not help to protect and serve the wider public interest. This public interest can only be enforced if it has a proper legal basis. Nothing can express the public interest in an area or monument more effectively than its recognition by the global community as its own heritage.

Most of the Hungarian part of the World Heritage site lies within the Fertő-Hanság National Park. The National Park has a valid Management Plan, an abstract of which is included in the World Heritage Management Plan (see enclosed document "B"). The Hungarian part of the World Heritage Management Plan thus complements the Management Plan for the National Park and focuses on aspects of the cultural heritage, the cultural landscape, and the management of the cultural landscape outside the National Park.

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