



Project "Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage in Wetlands"
Ramsar Culture Network Development in the Carpathian Region
Questionnaire

I.	Name of the wetland site with cultural aspect(s)
Ramsar site The Caves of Demänová Valley (Jaskyne Demänovskej doliny , RS No 1647)	
II.	Location details (country, general location, administrative region, municipality, geographical coordinates)
49° 01' 14" - 48° 58' 12" / 19° 33' 10" - 19° 38' 03" Žilinský kraj County, District Liptovský Mikuláš, Cadastre Demänovská Dolina	
III.	Time period to which identified value or practice relates (historical dates/earliest known origins, date at which it ceased to be present, or specify that it is still of continuing relevance if this is the case)
Known since 1700. This wetland was listed as a Ramsar Site in 2006, it includes the underground cave system as well as the most vulnerable surface part of the drainage area of the underground hydrological system.	

IV.	Typologies of cultural values and practices
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Please select for each identified site

☐ The site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland.

☒ The site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilisations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland.

☐ The site where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities.

☒ The site where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland.

Please describe of what type is the site (Wetland related human activities)

1. Habitation

1.1 Cultural landscapes

1.2 Cultural heritage sites (including religious heritage – monasteries, sanctuaries, hermitages, chapels)

1.3 Settlements and structures

- 1.3.1 Ancient sites and structures (up to 1599)
- 1.3.2 Traditional and modern settlements and structures

1.4 Wetland archaeology

1.5 Infrastructure

- 1.5.1 Terrestrial transportation networks
- 1.5.2 Water management and facilities and networks

2. Primary uses of wetland resources

- 2.1 Wetland related agriculture
- 2.2 Stock-breeding
- 2.3 Fishing and aquaculture
- 2.4 Management of forest wetland types
- 2.5 Hunting
- 2.6 Salt extraction, mineral extraction, mining

2.7 Water use

- 2.7.1 Irrigation
- 2.7.2 Domestic use
- 2.7.3 Water transfer infrastructure
- 2.7.4 Energy production
- 2.7.5 Other water uses (water mills, saw mills etc.)
- 2.8 Use of other wetland natural resources
 - 2.8.1 Biomass extraction
 - 2.8.2 Sustainable use of medicinal plants

3. Secondary use of wetland resources

- 3.1 Food processing
 - 3.1.1 Traditional methods of food preservation**
 - 3.1.2 Culinary heritage
- 3.2 Craftsmanship
 - 3.2.1 Artefacts (of ancient origin – up to 1599 / traditional and modern artefacts)
 - 3.2.2 Handicrafts and tools (of ancient origin / traditional and modern)
 - 3.2.3 Transportation means (boats etc.) (ancient / traditional and modern)
- 3.3 Traditional building construction
 - 3.3.1 Dwellings
 - 3.3.2 Utilitarian buildings
 - 3.3.3 Public buildings
- 3.4 Wetland-based traditional marketing
- 3.5 Tourism – eco-tourism and cultural tourism**
- 3.6 Leisure and sports**
 - 3.6.1 Having pleasure from being in the nature**
 - 3.6.2 Hiking, climbing**
 - 3.6.3 Rafting and kayaking
 - 3.6.4 Sailing and boating
 - 3.6.5 Diving

3.6.6 Speleology

3.7 Social practices and methods

3.8 Festivals, fairs, celebrations and events

4. Knowledge, belief systems and social practices

4.1 Scientific research and education

4.2 Traditional knowledge

4.2.1 Oral traditions and expressions, sayings

4.2.2 Languages, dialects and special terms

4.2.3 Relevant place names and their etymologies

4.2.4 Practice of traditional medicine

4.3 Spirituality and belief systems (including processions, pilgrimages, nature rituals and ceremonies)

4.4 Sacred natural sites or landscapes (e.g. caves, islands, rivers, springs, mountains...)

4.5 Artistic expression

4.5.1 Dances and traditional rural games

4.5.2 Music and traditional songs

4.5.3 Nature photography

4.5.4 Literature of wetlands nature, traditional legends and stories*

4.5.5 Movies and TV shows

4.5.6 Painting landscapes and nature

Please provide details and comments if necessary.

* Please send the text of legend/story identified relevant to the aims of this project in English (Word format) to be published in the final publication.

Inhabitation

The site is located in the area of the Nízke Tatry National Park in central Slovakia.

This site represents only a part of the longest cave system in Slovakia. As the site is part of the Demänovská dolina Valley with a large ski resort Jasná, there are also facilities for the visitors of the caves (hotels, smaller accommodation and catering objects). Second class road No II/584 passes through the area as well as several tourist trails.

Archaeology:

The cave system is made of several mutually interconnected caves (Pustá jaskyňa, Demänovská jaskyňa slobody, Údolná jaskyňa, Jaskyňa pod útesom, Jaskyňa trosiek, jaskyňa Vyvieranie, Demänovská jaskyňa mieru, Pavúčia jaskyňa and Demänovská Ice Cave - Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa). The two, Demänovská jaskyňa slobody and Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa are partly open to public. There are also several other caves which genetically relate to this cave system, such as jaskyňa Beniková, jaskyňa Okno, jaskyňa Štefanová and others.

The Okno Cave is a long known cave. It is mentioned in the literature sources from the 1st half of the 18th century. Palaeontological findings were discovered here during research and ceramic fragments were found during the reconstruction of the area in front of the cave. This ceramic was identified as belonging to Baden culture from the times of late Stone Age.

An abyss-shape of the Pustá cave opening was known from earliest times. Several tens of both animal and human bones were found here during speleological research carried out in the 20th century. Based on the expert opinion, anthropological remains belonged to at least 4 individuals, two men, one woman and one adolescent. Due to lack of archaeological evidence it was impossible to date these objects.

Primary use of water sources

The site also comprises a water source (from the cave Vyvieranie), which feeds the karst underground water into water supply network of the town Liptovský Mikuláš.

Secondary use of wetlands

Tourism - eco-tourism and cultural tourism:

Natural potential and richness of this area makes it attractive to many visitors and the tourism is well developed here. Part of the subterranean wetland (including underground river Demänovka) can be visited within a guided tour of Demänovská jaskyňa Slobody. Visitors are informed about values and character of the site. The remaining parts of underground hydrological system are not open to public; they are only used for speleological research. Many karst hydrological features can be seen on the surface as well, especially the ponors or exurgences.

Knowledge, religious rituals and traditions

The area is being monitored in long-term for a wide scale of geo-scientific features, occurrences and phenomena. Variety of publications and information leaflets, published under the name of SNC SR – Slovak Cave Administration, are available to public. They contain more detailed information on values and character of cave environment and its surroundings. The most comprehensive publication Jaskyne Demänovskej doliny¹ was published recently. (Ramsarská lokalita stredohorského alogénneho krasu Západných Karpát of authors P. Bella, D. Haviarová, Ľ. Kováč, M. Lalkovič, M. Sabol, M. Soják, V. Struhár, Z. Višňovská, J. Zelinka).

Legends:

Beldame

There is a beautiful Demänovská Cave in the Demänová dolina valley, which is also called “Dragon Cave”. Up in the valley, above the water spring Vyvieranie, there is a lake, which is dry for a half year and then full of water for another half year. People have passed on following legend about it: there were two sisters living in the mountains. The older was called Mariena and younger was Anička. Mariena envied her sister for she had many handsome courtiers; therefore she pushed her into a lake, where she drowned. As a punishment, devil took Mariena into hell. There she pays for her sins for a half year and the other half of the year she keeps reappearing at the lake which then fills up with her tears.

Demänová

Long time ago there lived a six-headed dragon in the caves of the wild and beautiful valley. It killed everyone who dared to enter the valley. Demian, a young strong man, came one day, killed the dragon and discovered the beauty of caves hidden in the valley. As a token of thankfulness, villagers named the valley and the village after him - Demänová.

The well “Vyvieranie” in Demänová

It is said that by the well Vyvieranie there is an old, very long and wide underground hall connecting our country with other worlds. The lords from abroad have a lot of courage, but not a lot of money. Each year they come to Slovakia through this hall to search for the gold.

V.	The main exponents, practitioners or beneficiaries of the documented values and practices.
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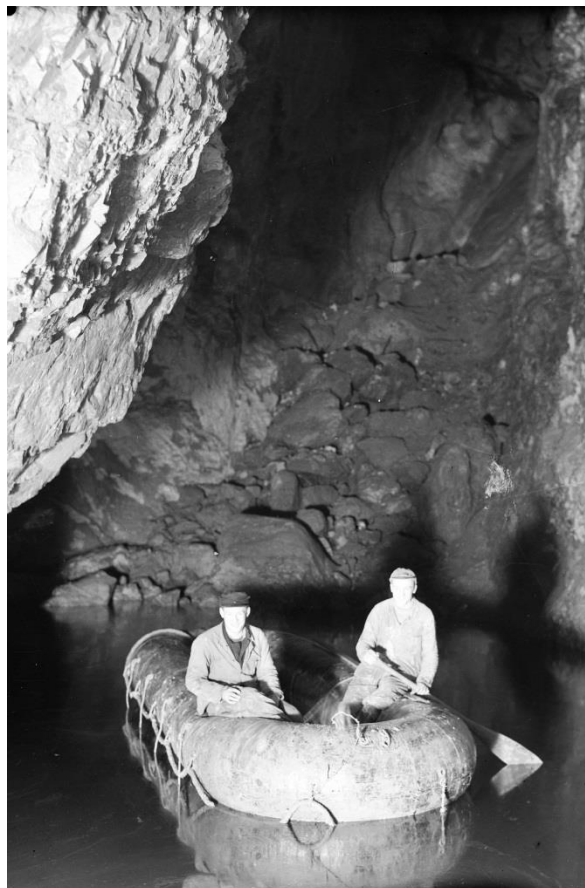
¹ Bella, P., Haviarová, D., Kováč, Ľ., Lalkovič, M., Sabol, M., Soják, M., Struhár, V., Višňovská, Z. & Zelinka, J. 2014. Caves of the Demänová Valley. The Ramsar Site of the middle-mountain alluvial karsts of the Western Carpathians Mts., ŠOP SR – SSJ, Liptovský Mikuláš, 200 pp.

	Tourists, scientists, inhabitants (source of water).
VI.	Specialised or vernacular terms used locally (including in local languages) to refer to the values and practices concerned
VII.	Relative significance of the values and practices concerned (e.g. in terms of rarity, magnitude, degree of formal recognition, or diversity in combination with other values)
VIII.	Transcription of any pertinent officially-adopted descriptions of the values and practices concerned , specifying the source in each case
IX.	Conservation implications of the cultural values/practices for the wetland(s)
	<p>Several changes in legislation contributed to a better protection of cave system, e. g. designation of the Nature Reserve Demänovská dolina in 1929, designation of caves Demänovské jaskyne and their buffer zone as a Protected Nature Monument in 1972, designation of Demänovské jaskyne caves as National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 1996 and also designation of the new NNR buffer zone in 2009.</p> <p>Demänovská jaskyňa slobody cave has been open to public since 1924. Guided tours are used for public awareness and educational trail was built there. The same applies to the Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa cave, opening of which is mentioned already in the middle of the 19th century. Lighting during the guided tour was safeguarded by use of fire torches and candles since 1930. After reconstruction works during the years 1950 – 1952 the cave was reopened with electric lighting.</p>
X.	<p>Status of the cultural values/practices</p> <p>Clarify whether the values or practices relate to a former period of history or whether they are continuing. If they relate to a former period of history, the time of their cessation and the reasons of it (if known) should be noted. If they are continuing, it should be clarified whether any changes have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in relation to the values or practices concerned.</p> <p>There are several writings on the walls of the caves (Čierna galéria in Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa – signatures of influential persons of Slovak history - M. M. Hodža, S. Chalupka, G. Fejérpataky-Belopotocký, etc.).</p>
XI.	<p>Current touristic use and potential for sustainable tourism development in the area, tourism influence in the area</p> <p>The site is used all year round. There are several tourist trails, educational trails, hiking trails. Natural values of the area and its surrounding create pressure for its massive use, which are not in line with nature conservation.</p>
XII.	<p>Suggestions for conservation actions</p> <p>(for example to address threats, restore or enhance values, improve integrated management or strengthen policy) – see 4.1 above</p> <p>Intensive management of the site is needed for its protection. There are pressures on greater exploitation of drinking and utility water (making of artificial snow). The number of cars being used in the area is increasing, as well as number of houses built, new ski slopes are being developed, forests cuts... all this negatively influences the site and hydrological conditions of the area.</p>
XIII.	<p>Ongoing management activities at the site (if any)</p> <p>SNC SR – Cave Administration provides basic management of the caves. There is hydrological monitoring ongoing. It issues statements related to developers's proposals. Demänovské jaskyne Management plan was elaborated in 2017, with detailed schedule of management measures to be taken in 2018-2021.</p>
XIV.	Please include reference sources (and links to them where relevant), images,

	illustrations, maps, data tables, interview results, further detail on case examples, useful contacts and anything else deemed appropriate
<p>www.ssj.sk</p> <p>Bella, P. – Haviarová, D. – Kováč, Ľ. – Lalkovič, M. – Sabol, M. – Soják, M. – Struhár, V. – Višňovská, Z. – J. Zelinka (2014). Jaskyne Demänovskej doliny, ŠOP SR – SSJ, Liptovský Mikuláš, 200 s.</p> <p>Šimková, Z. 2006: Osídlenie jaskýň Liptova (História speleoarcheologických výskumov a nálezov na Liptove). Slovenský kras XLIV, Liptovský Mikuláš, s. 119-141.</p> <p>Šimková, Z. – Lázníčková, M., 2017: Významné speleoarcheologické lokality na Slovensku. Liptovský Mikuláš.</p> <p>Important art work (Slovak Museum of Nature Conservation and Speleology):</p> <p>Vladimír Droppa – Vstup do Demänovskej jaskyne (1929, canvas, oil painting)</p> <p>Stanislav Holeček – Ružová váza, Chroše na Rázcestí, Veľký stĺp, Zlomený stĺp (Demänovská jaskyňa slobody, 1930, aquarelle, paper), Zlaté jazierko (Demänovská jaskyňa slobody, 1930, canvas, oil painting), Demänovská jaskyňa slobody (1949, aquarelle, paper)</p> <p>Peter Július Kern – Pod Vyvieraním – Demänovská dolina (1956, canvas, oil painting)</p> <p>Alois Král – Demänovská dolina (1946, canvas, painting)</p> <p>Ján Močiliak – Kamenné slnko (1965, wood, combined techniques), Modré jazierko – Demänovská jaskyňa slobody (1965, canvas, combined techniques)</p> <p>Jaroslav Němeček – Rokokové panenky v Ružovej sieni (1980, wood, intarsia)</p> <p>Zoltán Palugyay – Pagody, Kvapľový stĺp, Osamelá palma, Dve palmy, Sintrové jazierko, Tri palmy (Jaskyňa Okno, 1927, white paper, charcoal-pencil)</p> <p><u>Audio Disc:</u></p> <p>Ján Číž – Record of interview with discoverer of Demänovská jaskyňa slobody Mr. Alois Král (1947)</p> <p><u>Films:</u></p> <p>Veľká cena Demänovských jaskýň (1980)</p> <p>Sezóna v Demänovej (1961)</p> <p>Jaskyňa Slobody</p> <p>Demänová (musical film – Leoš Janáček)</p> <p>Demänová (1928, 2 parts)</p> <p>Objavitelé krásy (1970s)</p>	

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Demänovská jaskyňa slobody, Photo: V. Benický Tesnohlídkovo jazero, Photo: Vojtech Benický



Demänovská jaskyňa Okno, Photo: V. Benický