



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)
	Sivá Brada , part of UNESCO World Heritage Property Levoča, Spišský hrad and cultural monuments of its surroundings (1993, 2009)
II.	Location details (country, general location, administrative region, municipality, geographical coordinates)
	County Prešovský, District Levoča, Cadastre Spišské Podhradie, 49°00'22.0"N 20°43'15.3"E
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)
	17th century – today

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.

V.	The main exponents, practitioners or beneficiaries of the documented values and practices.
Visitors, tourists, believers who use the Calvary, self-governing region during annual events.	
VI.	Specialised or vernacular terms used locally (including in local languages) to refer to the values and practices concerned
xxx	
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)
The Calvary – the chapel at Sivá Brada is part of the route, it is probably the oldest of 113 calvaries in Slovakia.	
VIII.	Transcription of any pertinent officially-adopted descriptions of the values and practices concerned , specifying the source in each case
Material manifestation (chapel construction itself, former spas, traces of mineral water waterworks, springs are adjusted to the fact that many people use them) is clearly seen in the field since its beginning. Intangible character of the site was discovered in 2002 based on the work of the Slovak Environment Agency in Banská Bystrica within the elaboration of the “landscape characteristics of the regions of Slovakia”.	
IX.	Conservation implications of the cultural values/practices for the wetland(s)
Grasslands of this area had since long ago been mown with an aim to wisely manage their water regime. Mineral water was used in nearby spas and by locals and visitors who came to collect it as a drinking water from springs suitably adapted for it. Currently, there are efforts made to restore wet grasslands’ traditional management; the springs are not been used.	

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>The St. Cross Chapel at Sivá Brada (Kaplňka sv. Kríža na Sivej Brade) was built in 1675 as part of one of the oldest calvaries in Slovakia. At that time this region run so called “Passion plays”, which ceased to exist after dissolution of Jesuit Ministry in 1773. Simultaneously, Jerusalem analogy ceased with it and was newly re-discovered in 2002. Currently there are efforts to restore the use of Spišský Jeruzalem (Spiš Jerusalem), this, however, has no significant influence over the wetland habitats.</p> <p>From nature conservation point of view, the area was declared National Nature Reserve (1979) and it is part of the site of community interest SKUEV0105 Spišskopodhradské travertíny together with the site Hradská lúka (Baldovce cadastre), which is of similar character and importance.</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 at minimal scale by tourists, it is part of marked and little used educational and tourist trail. The site is used locally (sites around springs and chapel), number of visitors has recently decreased considerably. The Calvary route leading from Pažica to Sivá Brada has been restored, the last stops are by the chapel at Sivá Brada, with the access from the south of travertine mound.</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>Proposals and recommendations are stated in the NPR Sivá Brada Management Plan.</p>
XIII.	<p>Ongoing management activities at the site (if any)</p> <p>Management of wetland habitat is done by Administration of the Slovenský raj National Park, competence of which stretches up to this area. It has managed a small wetland area for a long time and in the last few years it managed to take on much wider wetland area as well as a part of adjacent area. The plan is to continue with the enlargement of the management area until it covers all the farm land.</p>
XIV.	<p>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> <p>http://www.putnickemiesta.sk/putnicke-miesta-na-slovensku/spisska-dieceza/siva-brada/</p>

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Wetland with Sivá Brada, Photo: Milan Barlog



Sivá Brada, Photo: Milan Barlog