V.2.7. melléklet

Hortobágy National Park - the *Puszta* (2000)

UNESCO Extra-Budgetary Funds

International Assistance granted to the property

Requests Approved:0 (from2000-2000)
Total Amount Ap proved:50,000USD

2000 Emergency Assistance for the Hortobágy National Park 50,000 USD

Missions**

Factors* affecting the property identified in previous reports

Corrective Measures

Current conservation issues

The State Party provided a report on 12 September 2000 on the state of conservation of the site in connection with the cyanide pollution of River Tisza, which was caused by the spill of 30 January 2000 at the Romanian Baia Mare mining site. The cyanide pollution potentially threatened the artificial and natural wetland areas of the site. There are three separate units along the river Tisza and structures were built to halt the impacts of the pollution and a monitoring programme was put in place. The report points out that the traditional land-use and other cultural values are not affected.

IUCN's comments can be summarized as follows. The report outlines the threats and damage to the natural environment of the site. Due to actions taken by the authorities the cyanide pollution affected only the wildlife, especially the fish fauna of the riverbed of the River Tisza, flowing through the Tisza Lake. River algae reappeared several days after the spill and research shows that there has been no decline in invertebrates. The numbers of one of the most important mayfly species has increased suggesting a lower number of predator fish feeding on the larvae of this species. Large amounts of fish were poisoned, including species protected by national and international law. No figures are given. No mammal or bird species were found dead inside or around the Park and no decline has been reported for the waterfowl-breeding season in 2000. The Hungarian Ministry of Environment has set-up a monitoring programme including water quality and biodiversity issues. The Programme is co-ordinated by the Water Research Institute with the participation of various authorities and NGO's. Biodiversity monitoring includes: surveying and monitoring of strictly protected mammals (especially the European otter and bats); monitoring of rare birds and those nesting in colonies; monitoring of reptiles and amphibians; monitoring of protected and commercial fish populations; effects of the cyanide pollution on insects; effects of the pollution on the macro-vegetation and gallery forests; landscape scale monitoring; and development of a GIS database for the wildlife of the River Tisza. The State Party suggests that the following actions should be taken in

order to avoid damage in the future: a detailed action plan should be prepared by relevant authorities (water, environmental, national park directorates) and experts for prevention purposes. The Plan should focus on the improvement of the exchange of information in similar emergency situations, three permanent structures should be built to prevent any polluted water from entering into the protected wetlands of the National Park.