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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Thirty-first session / Trente et unième session

Christchurch, New Zealand / Christchurch, Nouvelle Zélande
23 June - 2 July 2007 / 23 juin - 2 juillet 2007

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

Butrint (Albania) (570bis) / Butrint (Albanie) (570bis)

17 – 21 April 2007 / 17 – 21 avril 2007

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

WHC-07/31.COM/7A

WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add

WHC-07/31.COM/7B

WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add

**JOINT UNESCO-ICOMOS-ICCROM MISSION TO
BUTRINT (ALBANIA)**

FROM 17 TO 21 APRIL 2007

REPORT

prepared by

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. The members of the mission express their gratitude to Ms Tatiana Gjonaj, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Albania to UNESCO, Ms Elida Petoshati, Secretary-General of the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO, Prof. Ylli Cerova, Director of the Butrint National Park (BNP), the team of the Butrint National Park: Ms Erjona Ailla, specialist of Archaeology, Ms Albana Hakani, specialist of Monuments, Ms Dorina Gaci, specialist of Tourism, Ms Klarita Hoxha, Financial specialist, Mr Ziso Kristopuli, specialist of Environment, the representatives of the Butrint Foundation involved in the World Heritage site of Butrint, Mr Rupert Smith, Director of the Butrint Foundation (BF), Mr Rene Rice, consultant conservator and Mr Smirald Kola, Community Development officer, for their availability and assistance, which greatly facilitated the work of the mission. The precious help obtained from Ms Diana Ndrenika, Packard Humanities Institute - Butrint Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In the framework of Decision 29 COM 7A.27 taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, June/July 2005), and 30COM 7B.75 27 taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, June/July 2006), the mission considers that there is a great improvement in the management of the site, although the specific recommendations on the updating of the management plan has not taken place in a more participatory approach. While emphasising the need to update the Management plan, the mission makes a series of specific recommendations with a view to ensuring an effective protection of the site and the sustainability of its development.

BACKGROUND

3. The property of Butrint was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992 under cultural criterion C (iii) and extended in 1999.

4. In March 1997 it was reported that the World Heritage Site of Butrint had been looted during the civil unrest in Albania. Following a report provided by the Butrint Foundation on the condition of Butrint, an assessment mission by UNESCO, ICOMOS and the Butrint Foundation was dispatched in October 1997.

5. At its 21st session (December 1997), the Committee decided to include Butrint in the List of World Heritage in Danger and to allocate an amount of USD 100,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund for the implementation of the programme of corrective action proposed in the mission report.

6. In 1999, at the 23rd session of the Committee, ICOMOS expressed its concern that tourism development in a small area on the coast, excluded from the proposed extension of the Butrint, could have a disastrous impact on the site. The Committee decided to extend the property under the existing criterion (iii) on condition that the area in question would be included in the zone of the proposed enlargement.

7. At its 24th session (2000) the World Heritage Committee decided that UNESCO and ICOMOS should assess the situation and report to the 25th session of the Bureau.

8. A joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission carried out in April 2001 recommended the following:

- Enlargement of the Butrint National Park Board to include, at the national level, all relevant authorities (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Public Works) and to permit an effective participation of local authorities, in order to ensure an effective co-ordination of the World Heritage site management.
- Clear identification of responsibilities between local authorities and the Park Directorate within the World Heritage site and its surroundings.
- Identification of the amount of outstanding conservation work and prioritization and planning its execution.
- Adoption of the Draft Management Plan.

9. At its 25th session (2001) the Committee urged the State Party to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations made by the joint UNESCO- ICOMOS- Butrint Foundation mission, by 1 February 2002, for examination at its twenty-sixth session.

10. At its 26th session (2002), the Committee reiterated the recommendations made by the Bureau at its 25th session, notably regarding the enlargement of the Board of the Butrint National Park to include, at the national and regional level, all relevant authorities to ensure an effective co-ordination of the management of the World Heritage site, and urged the State Party to take all appropriate measures, at the national level, to ensure that the Butrint National Park Law be enacted as soon as possible in order to ensure a better protection of the site.

11. In 2003 the Committee at its 27th session requested that a report, taking into account all issues that had led to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, be submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its following session.

12. In the meantime, Butrint had become designated site under the RAMSAR Convention (1971) (No 1290, Wetlands International Site Reference: No 3AL002, Designation date 28.3.2003, total site area: 13500 hectares, Ramsar Criteria: 1, 2, 3, 8).

13. The UNESCO-ICOMOS assessment mission requested by the Committee was fielded in October 2003, and recommended to the national authorities *inter alia*:

- to continue systematically the conservation works, also of architecturally less impressive archaeological sites, walls and buildings,
- to pay special attention to the interpretation of the site, which had been considerably neglected from the point of view of its universal value,
- to take appropriate measures for the effective protection of the site's cultural landscape, including the development of hydrological studies and sustainable agricultural methods,
- to establish the area between the National Park and RAMSAR borders as a buffer zone of the World Heritage site, including the villages bordering the National Park;
- to establish an urban development policy for these villages;
- to adopt an integrated management plan in compliance with the existing legislation, which in particular should refer to ways of preserving the universal value of the site. The essentials of this management plan should be defined by a Round Table that would gather all the stakeholders (Board members, international public and private organisations, local stakeholders and citizen's organizations).

14. At its 28th session, the Committee adopted Decision 28 COM 15A.28 (cf. Annex I), by which it urged the State Party to take into account the recommendations of the 2003 UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, in particular to finalize and adopt a management plan for the World Heritage property as soon as possible, and recommended that the management plan for the World Heritage property should be coordinated with the management plan for the Ramsar Convention protection area. The Committee endorsed the proposal for a Round Table to be organised in cooperation with the World

Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM and requested the State Party to provide an up-date report taking into account all the issues raised in the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission report of 2003, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005. The Committee decided to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

15. In March 2005 the World Heritage Centre received the up-date report, prepared by the site manager.

16. The UNESCO-ICOMOS-ICCROM assessment mission requested by the Committee was fielded in March 2005, and recommended to the national authorities *inter alia*:

- Vigilance to avoid construction that adversely affects the site.
- Careful maintenance and conservation measures.
- A solid and realistic management plan as a useful tool. Especially planning and managing the Ramsar protection area should be integrated into an overall management plan.
- Dialogue, cooperation and coordination for the preparation of a site management plan. To generate synergy of all stakeholders, partnership attitudes must prevail; to ensure good management, transparency is necessary; in order for the site to become sustainable, modern management and planning methods are required.
- Many of the recent excavations have been consolidated and sometimes backfilled, and good quality conservation work is continuing. The high water table in and around the site is an issue specific to Butrint and not a recent phenomenon. Only permanent long-term monitoring can provide the information on the effect of the water on the state of conservation of the site and the different structures. A side effect of the water is the vegetation. It is also an obstacle to proper "reading" and presentation of the site. An effective plan for removal of trees growing from walls should be prepared. Expert advice is required for prevention of growth, without causing damage to flora, fauna and the environment, i.e. chemicals should be used with environmental consideration.
- A signage and visitors' trail plan should be prepared and implemented. In general, while the site is attractive for many reasons and visitors can enjoy individual structures, it is very difficult to read and understand the site. It is recommended that excavation plans be prepared with the objective of improving the presentation and clarity of the site. Removal of vegetation from the walls is not important just for their preservation, but for presentation too.
- Exposing and presenting the mosaics of the baptistery will play an important role in the site presentation.
- Given the positive development of the site and the advisability to keep the momentum of its dynamics and strengthen institutional capacity building, the mission recommends that a specific ICCROM World Heritage training module be developed for a group of 8 to 10 young professionals.

While the members of the mission agree on the principle of recommending removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, there is no unanimity on the timing and the modalities of this action: whereas some members propose a deletion with immediate effect, other hold the view that it should be considered for removal by the Committee in 2006 only, on the basis of a further assessment report to be prepared prior to 31st session of the World Heritage Committee.

While various recommendations have been implemented, others still required urgent attention. The overall situation of the state of conservation and management was neither entirely satisfactory nor could it be considered as entirely unsatisfactory. However, compared to 1997, the situation has radically improved, and in many respects healthy progress has been made.

17. At its 29th session, the Committee adopted decision 29 COM 7A.27 (cf. Annex I), by which it acknowledged the considerable efforts by the State Party, endorsed the recommendations made by

the Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission 2005 and requested the State Party to ensure that the management and conservation plan of the property be finalized, take all the necessary measures to prevent any illegal development or inappropriate construction in the property, ensure that strict control is exerted on the site management and legal provisions of the new law on cultural heritage are applied; Further requested the State Party to invite a Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission in 2007 to assess the implementation of the Committee's decision and to provide a detailed implementation report by 1 February 2006 for examination by the Committee at its 20th session in 2006. The Committee decided to remove Butrint from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

18. A report from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth, and Sport on activities at the site during 2005 was received by the World Heritage Centre in February 2006. It listed work on the maintenance and preservation of monuments, including treatment of vegetation, consolidation, etc., and archaeological projects by Albanian, Butrint Foundation, and expert teams. This work was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Round Table and the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Mission in March 2005.

A further communication was received from the Director of Butrint National Park on 3 April 2006. It reported that

- the Butrint Foundation, in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology, was preparing an online archive of all archaeological excavations and finds from Butrint between the 1930s and 2006. New archaeological stores will be constructed in 2006/2007.
- In July 2006 a hydrological survey into the effects of water action on the monuments and the reinstallation of water pumps had to be carried out by an Italian expert with Albanian counterparts.
- The protective barriers around the site have to be repaired and improved during 2006, and a new ticket office is to be built.
- Improvements have to be made to the surveillance of the site by the Park rangers.

No explicit mention was made in either reports of the site management under the terms of the 2003 "Law on Cultural Heritage". It was implicit from some statements, especially those on "Park monitoring," that certain aspects of the Law was slowly being applied. This is supported cautiously by comments of the 2005 Joint Mission in its report. The latter included strong recommendations on the management regime made at the time of the mission. The April 2006 document reported that a new Director has been appointed, along with four specialists in archaeology, monuments, tourism, and environment. In December 2005, staff took part in a three-day management training session; other courses have taken place or are planned on tourism management, vegetation management, conservation of monuments and mosaics, and project proposal writing.

The 2005 Joint Mission report insisted that "the need for a solid and realistic management as a useful tool has become more obvious than ever before." Nonetheless, the report submitted by the State Party contained no reference to any work on the improvements of the management and conservation plan. It only mentioned that the management plan 2000-2005 has been adopted by the Butrint National Park Board and the initiatives and projects implemented in 2005-2006 are in accordance with the objectives of the management plan. The State Party also noted that in 2006 a project funded by the World Bank to develop an integrated coastal zone management plan has to commence, which will include Butrint National Park. Although not included in the report, ICCROM reported that one of the conservation specialists recruited in 2005 has been provided with opportunities of field training in two occasions during the year 2005 and 2006.

19. At its 30th session, the Committee adopted decision 30 COM 7B.75 (cf. Annex I), by which it noted the authorities' continuing efforts towards the improvement of the general situation of the site and that the State Party expanded the area of Butrint National Park and thereupon the buffer zone and requested the State Party to submit the relevant documents including maps of the revised buffer zone of the World Heritage property in accordance. It regretted that there has been no progress on

the updating of the existing management plan and requested the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report on the implementation of the 2005 mission's recommendations and the progress made with the updating and implementation of the integrated management plan of the property according to international standards, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007;

20. On 31 January 2007 the World Heritage Centre received from the State Party a detailed implementation report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage Property and a copy of the updated management plan 2007-2012. The State Party also provided the World Heritage Centre with a map of the new proposed boundaries of the site, the relevant governmental decree on the new boundaries and the Management zone prescription.

21. The joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission requested by the Committee was sent to Albania from 17 to 21 April 2007 in order to:

- assess the state of conservation of the property;
- review the overall situation in Butrint with regard to the state of conservation of the site in its widest context, its integrity and its authenticity and the implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee;
- assess any threats from illegal development or inappropriate construction in the property;
- discuss with the relevant authorities and assess the progress being made in order strict control is exerted on the site management and that the relevant legal provisions of the 2003 Law on Cultural Heritage are applied;
- discuss with the relevant authorities and assess the updating and implementation of the integrated management and conservation plan of the property according to international standards, and the development of an overall management strategy for the World Heritage property;
- discuss with the relevant authorities and assess the implementation of the recommendations made by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission of 2005;
- make any other recommendations as appropriate, including capacity building and awareness raising aspects and prepare a detailed report for review by the World Heritage Committee for its examination at its 31st session (23 June - 2 July 2007, Christchurch, New Zealand)

22. The composition of the mission is shown in Annex III.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MISSION

Implementation status of the recommendations made by the previous missions

23. Through site visits and extensive consultations held in Butrint with international and local stakeholders, the members of the mission gathered detailed information on the developments that have led to the status quo. On the basis of that information, they prepared a detailed report on the present state of implementation of the recommendations made by the two joint UNESCO-ICOMOS missions fielded in 2001, 2003 and the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-ICCROM mission fielded in 2005. The detailed report, including specific recommendations for further action, is shown in Annex IV.

Legal protection

24. In general terms, the protection of cultural heritage in Albania is implemented through the application of the Law on Cultural Heritage adopted in May 2003, which is in conformity with international standards.

25. Concerning the Butrint World Heritage site specifically, an important step forwards has been the Decree for the protection areas of the National Park, its buffer zone, and the RAMSAR area. An approved new buffer zone boundary has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre to be examined by the World Heritage Committee (Governmental Decree on the new boundaries, Decision No.693 date 10.11.2005, On the declaration of wetland complex of Butrinti “National Park”). No new illegal constructions have been recorded, although plans to build two large holiday villages within the Ramsar area have recently been approved. Vigilance is recommended to avoid construction that adversely affects the site, and coordinated efforts among agencies to control the quality of new constructions and the visual impact is needed.

Management and planning of the property

26. The establishment of the Butrint National Park (BNP) six years ago undoubtedly is of great help for an improved management, and deserves credit. Mr Ylli Cerova, PhD Archaeologist was appointed as the new director of the Butrint National Park in 2006. The Park has 6 professional staff (Specialist of archaeology, specialist of monuments, specialist of tourism, specialist of environment and financial specialist), 2 assistants and 4 rangers.

27. The Butrint Foundation continues to support various activities by providing expertise and finances. A new director, Mr Rupert Smith was appointed recently. Mr Rene Rice, conservator and Mr Smirald Kola, Community Development Officer, assisting him. Ms Diana Ndrenika, Packard Humanities Institute, collaborates with the Butrint Foundation, are now all active in the field.

28. A new document called “Management Plan for 2007-2012” has been submitted to the World heritage Centre in 31 January 2007. The plan is not complete but it includes various recommendations for further actions. The preparation process did not follow any accepted methodology and was not participatory. Comments were provided by the members of the WHC-ICOMOS-ICCROM mission. The mission has been informed on an ongoing study on fire prevention measures for the park. The management plan should be completed, to include proper plans for implementation, and not just recommendations for the preparation of such plans. The plan should include visitors’ management, risk preparedness plan, cost estimates for the action plans etc. Assistance of an experienced professional planner and training may be required in the preparation of the management plan in order to update and complete the existing document. The plan has to be approved by the highest national authorities and supported by the stake holders.

State of conservation

29. Many of the recent excavations have been consolidated and sometimes backfilled, and good quality conservation work is continuing. The high water table in and around the site is an issue specific to Butrint and not a recent phenomenon. Only permanent long-term monitoring can provide the information on the effect of the water on the state of conservation of the site and the different structures. A side effect of the water is the vegetation. An effective plan for removal of trees growing from walls is in process. There is still no complete updated archaeological survey map. This activity is foreseen to take place during 2007. The preparation of such map is a necessity for management, research and planning and should be a priority.

Conservation plans for the structures and the mosaics should be completed, prioritized and implemented. These plans have to be incorporated in the comprehensive management plan for the site. The mosaics of the baptistry should be uncovered, monitored and be presented to the public when conservation solutions were found. It is recommended that the World Heritage Centre be informed of any major conservation plans within the property, for review, before any implementation. These should include major construction and development within the Park including large scale pathway, new roads and infrastructure. Despite the demolition of several constructions, the construction next

to the archaeological site of Diaporit, mentioned in the 2003 report, still remains. Demolition of the construction next to the archaeological site of Diaporit, should be examined.

30. The effectiveness of the new buffer zone has to be monitored. Mission was not aware of whether the development of the surrounding Villages is in sympathy with the sites and noticed that the construction continues at high pace. These constructions can have adverse visual impact on the National Park which maintains unique landscape. At present there seem to be no restrictions or controls of the heights, character, colour etc. of the new constructions in the vicinity of the Park boundaries. Constructions situation in the village of Ksamil through which, the site has its main access is alarming. Better control over development and construction in the villages included in the extended Park boundaries is required. As a matter of urgency, park authorities should initiate a dialogue with planning and development agencies with a view to regulate the future developments in these villages in order to avoid negative impacts on the World Heritage site. The citizens of the Ksamil commune and other villages have to be informed of any new boundaries and be sensitized to them.

31. It is essential for the regional development plans to respect and integrate cultural and natural values of the site at early stages of the planning process in order to avoid conflicts. The mission felt that this should be undertaken as a matter of urgency and the Park authorities should play a crucial role in the process. The mission was informed that the construction of three tourism villages in the buffer zone has been approved. This is a clear sign of the lack of integrated approach and if the trend continues, there will be adverse and irreversible effects on the site.

Presentation-Interpretation

32. A good signage and visitors' trail plan is implemented. Fifteen panels were placed at key monuments providing information on the monuments and the different phases and periods and presenting in three-dimensional form the evolution of the site. Some of the signs are wrongly placed. The Museum which was opened in October 2005 supports the presentation and interpretation efforts. However, the museum is managed by a different authority, the Institute of Archaeology, and not by the Park. There should be closer collaboration between the Butrint National Park Director and the Institute of Archaeology authorities for providing better service to the visitors of Butrint.

Other recommendations

33. Given the positive development of the site and the advisability to keep the momentum of its dynamics and strengthen institutional capacity building, the mission recommends that a specific ICCROM World Heritage training workshop on management planning be held in 2007. It is recommended that World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS experts in the site management planning should be part of the training staff. As part of the training programme stakeholders meetings should be held for the harmonization of the management and conservation plan according to international standards.

34. Specific recommendations arising from the detailed assessment carried out by the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-ICCROM mission of 2007 are reproduced in Annex IV. These represent an update and follow up of the recommendations made by the joint missions of 2001, 2003 and 2005.

Draft Decision

35. In the light of paragraphs 23-34 above, the World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

Draft Decision: 31 COM

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document **WHC-07/31 COM/7 B**,*
 2. *Recalling its Decisions **29 COM 7A.27** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, South Africa, 2005) and **30 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, Lithuania, 2006),*
 3. *Noting the up-date report and the document “Management Plan 2007-2012” which should be completed to include proper plans for implementation, provided by the State Party and the results of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission of April 2007,*
 4. *Acknowledges the considerable efforts by the State Party to contribute to the improvements of the state of conservation of the site and its legal protection;*
 5. *Endorses the recommendations made by the UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission of April 2007 and calls upon the State Party to give appropriate attention to their timely implementation;*
 6. *Requests the State Party*
 - (a) *to ensure that a draft of the completed management and conservation plan of the area be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review and an interim report not later than by the end of 2008, on the basis of which further steps could be considered by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
 - (b) *to take all necessary measures to prevent any illegal developments or inappropriate construction and uncontrolled growth within the new boundaries, its buffer zone and the vicinity by closely collaborating with other relevant planning and development agencies.*
 7. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed implementation report on the issues addressed by the April 2007 joint mission, by **1 February 2009** for examination by its 33rd session (2009);*
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ANNEX I

Decisions 29COM 7A.27 and 29COM 8C.3 adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, South Africa 2005)

29COM 7A.27 - Butrint (Albania)

Decision Text

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-05/29.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.28**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party of Albania for the submission of the progress report and for the organization of the Round Table as requested;
4. Acknowledges the considerable efforts by the State Party to contribute to the improvements in the state of conservation of the property, its gradual return to normality and its legal protection;
5. Endorses the recommendations made by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission of March 2005, and calls upon the State Party to give appropriate attention to their timely implementation;
6. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) ensure that the management and conservation plan of the property be finalized, if necessary with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre, taking into consideration the recommendations of the 2005 Round Table, as well as be approved by the relevant authorities of the State Party and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
 - b) take all necessary measures to prevent any illegal development or inappropriate construction in the property;
 - c) ensure that strict control is exerted on the site management and that the relevant legal provisions of the 2003 Law on Cultural Heritage are applied; and
 - d) consider inviting a joint mission of UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM in 2007 to assess the implementation of the Committee's decisions and submit a report on its findings;
7. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed implementation report on the issues above as well as a copy of the updated management plan by **1 February 2006** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
8. **Decides to remove Butrint (Albania) from the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

29COM 8C.3 – Removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Decision Text

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Following examination of state of conservation reports of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger (*WHC-05/29.COM/7A* and *WHC-05/29.COM/7A.Add*),
2. Decides to remove the following properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - **Butrint** (Albania) (Decision **29 COM 7A.27**)
 - **Sangay National Park** (Ecuador) (Decision **29 COM 7A.11**)
 - **Timbuktu** (Mali) (Decision **29 COM 7A. 14**)

Decision 30COM 7B.75 adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 20th session (Vilnius, Lithuania 2006)

30COM 7B.75 - State of Conservation (Butrint)

Decision Text

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the authorities' continuing efforts towards the improvement of the general situation of the site;
4. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party expanded the area of Butrint National Park and thereupon the buffer zone of the World Heritage property and requests the State Party to submit the relevant documents including maps of the revised buffer zone of the World Heritage property in accordance with chapter III.I of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Regrets that there has been no progress on the updating of the existing management plan and requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report by **1 February 2007** on the implementation of the 2005 mission's recommendations and the progress made with the updating and implementation of the integrated management plan of the property according to international standards, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007;
6. Acknowledges that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to the property in 2007, as requested in Decision **29 COM 7A.27**, to assess the implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in cooperation with the State Party and submit a report on its findings at the 31st session in 2007.

ANNEX II

Composition of the mission team:

Mrs Anastasia Tzigounaki (UNESCO/WHC)

Mr Giora Solar (ICOMOS)

Mr Gamini Wijesuriya (ICCROM)

ANNEX III

Programme of the mission:

Thursday 17 April 2007

09:00 Arrival.

10:00 Meeting with the Butrint National Park Director Ylli Cerova and the staff of BNP.

13:00 Departure for Butrint; Visit around the site; Intramural area; Visit to the Museum in Acropolis; Visit to the new boundaries.

Wednesday, 18 April 2007

9:30 Meeting with the Butrint Foundation Director Mr Rupert Smith and the team of BF.

10:00 Visit to Butrint, Diaporit and Virna to the excavations funded by the BF.

15:00 Meeting with the team of BF for the presentation of the ongoing projects.

Thursday, 19 April 2007

09:00 Meeting with the Director and the staff of the Butrint National Park at the Saranta office. Work on the recommendations.

Friday, 20 April 2007

10:30 Visit to the World Heritage site of the *Museum – City of Gjirokastra (2005)*. Meeting with the representative of the Institute of Archaeology of Albania, the Gjirokastra Conservation and Development office staff and the staff of the Butrint National Park, in Gjirokastra. Meeting with vice Mayor of Gjirokastra.

Saturday 21 April 2007

09:00 Meeting with the Director and the staff of the Butrint National Park at the Saranda office; - Conclusions.

13:00 Departure.

ANNEX IV

**Assessment by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM April 2007 mission
of the implementation status of the recommendations made
by the previous UNESCO/ICOMOS missions (2001 and 2003)
and UNESCO/ ICOMOS/ICCROM mission (2005)
concerning the World Heritage property of Butrint, Albania**

(1) Analysis of the status of implementation of corrective measures proposed in 1997

Action 1 Prepare inventory of archaeological objects related to Butrint.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
<p>The mission had a meeting with the Institute of Archaeology (IOA), the responsible agency designated by the Government to implement immediate action nr 1. The IOA presented to the mission the work done since 1997. To this effect, and with the amount of USD 5,000 provided as Emergency Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, the IOA purchased a computer, a printer and a digital camera which has been used to realize, in an electronic format, an inventory of the 300 most important archaeological objects related to Butrint. The equipment will be used to draw up inventories of objects of other archaeological sites in Albania.</p>	<p>No further recommendations.</p>
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
<p>Done. A digital Intranet database for movable objects has been developed, and a database with non-movable objects is under preparation. The mission was told that it would be all accessible via Internet as from 2005</p>	<p>The mission strongly recommends the continuation of these works and its accessibility through Internet.</p>
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
<p>As indicated in 2003, this item has been dealt with to a large extent.</p> <p>The Butrint Foundation is at present compiling an electronic archive of all the small finds from the Butrint excavations as well as all archival records. Ultimately it will be a huge academic resource as well as an inventory of the archaeological objects, which will be available on the internet by the end of 2005.</p> <p>The Packard Humanities Institute has funded a “missing antiquities from Albania” website linked to that of the PHI funded International Centre for Albanian Archaeology. It details 12 outstanding missing objects looted from Butrint in 1991 and in 1997. – The website of the Butrint National Park has also posted an</p>	<p>It would be advisable to establish a link between the two websites. Furthermore, it is recommended that the State Party strengthen its collaboration with the secretariat of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property, with view to better coordinating all efforts aiming at retrieving the missing items.</p>

<p>inventory of missing items.</p> <p>The Butrint Foundation (BF) points out a serious lack of quality storage space at Butrint which would allow access to objects and easy cataloguing. BF would like to address this problem by building laboratory/storage space.</p>	
<p>Status of Implementation 2007</p>	<p>Recommendations 2007</p>
<p>Several of the looted objects were restituted, but some are still missing. There is indication regarding the location of the head of Asclepius, as well as of other missing objects.</p>	<p>Continue working on the restitution, in concertation with the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property, and in cooperation with ICOM with a view to better coordinating all efforts aiming at retrieving and restitution of the missing items.</p>

Action 2 Reinstall water pumps at the Theatre.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The mission was informed that the water pumps stolen from the Theatre in 1997 have been replaced by movable ones that can be used at different locations, if needed for restoration or maintenance works. Studies have indicated that it is not necessary to keep the theatre and other structures completely free of water, but that it is most important that the water is kept clean. The mission was informed that the funds allocated for this action were also used to install cables and electricity supply to the site.	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Done (water pumps). Regarding the former mission, which held that "studies have indicated that it is not necessary to keep the theatre and other structures completely free of water but that the most important is that the water is kept clean", on examining the water that covers the structures the mission found that it is not clean and that its level is variable and consequently vegetation grows and biochemical processes develop.	The structures of the Theatre are not adequately protected during their use for summer shows and therefore the mission recommends that the itineraries and the infrastructures be modified in order to avoid their being used in ways that are not compatible with the structures. To guarantee their conservation it is important to solve the flooding problem. It is desirable that a survey be carried out to understand the system of the site's surface waters and carry out works that ensure the safety of these structures.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
Pumps have been purchased with funds provided by UNESCO/WHC under emergency assistance. Following the advice of various specialists, the water is pumped out twice a year. Pumping of water regularly in the Theatre has been considered as not advisable for the state of the Monument. The BF shares the view of the Getty Conservation Institute that seasonal pumping can exacerbate deterioration and that the water - which has existed for centuries - does no extra damage to the monuments. The BF supports regular cleaning and maintenance and considers that there is no well implemented programme of cleaning/maintenance/vegetation removal.	The main threat of water is changing levels. Movable pumps can not solve it since it requires too close monitoring. Pumps which start operating when water reaches certain height are far better and recommended. Installing pumps should follow experts' consultation and a study of flooding behaviour.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
Studies on flooding and changes in water level are ongoing.	Once the study is completed and recommendations exist, they should be implemented as soon as possible and the results monitored.

Action 3 Improve site protection by repairing and extending the protective fence around the site.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
During the visit to the site, the mission noted that the fence which protects the core site had been repaired and that the entrance area had been arranged. Furthermore, the mission also noted that the boundaries of the Park had been indicated by stones and that at the entrance at Ksamili a traditional wall stone is under construction.	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
<p>The fence is repaired in the area of the main entrance of the core site. The site was extended in 1999, and no boundaries are indicated of this extension, in particular for the area of “special archaeological interest”. The boundaries of the National Park are indicated only from the North entrance, the Ksamili peninsula, including the completion of the stone wall the mission of 2001 referred to. However, the Southern and Western accesses to the park are not indicated. The boundaries with the villages of Xarre and Mursia (a dirt road bordering the villages) are not indicated. Besides, for accessing Diaporit, the entrance to the Park was obstructed with wood and plastic.</p> <p>The site of Diaporit has no fence around it, and is not protected in any way and is not being managed. The excavation trenches were abandoned after the digs. There are no signs showing that one is in a protected area. On the contrary a few metres away there is an illegal construction.</p>	<p>A clear indication of the boundaries of the Park is a must and it is also necessary to ensure that the territory is guarded.</p> <p>The site of Diaporit should be at least fenced in and a serious plan for the protection of the structures should be launched. Its surveillance should include the cleanliness of the approaches to it and the pollution of the areas close to the villages.</p>
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
<p>The concrete fence enclosing the area of ‘special archaeological interest’ has remained intact and is maintained on a routine basis. The Butrint National Park (BNP) infrastructure improvement programme (2005) schedules renovation of this fence to improve its appearance and to ensure continued security for the ‘intramural area’. - The Park entrance at Ksamil has been improved in spring 2005 by the addition of new stone entry-feature walls and columns, rehabilitation of the existing Park boundary stone walls, and replacement of the flag standards. The site manager intends to post new sign at the entrance with the Park name (BNP) and a label announcing the area as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.- Likewise, he intends to have the Park entrance at Vrina constructed in 2005. - The archaeological site</p>	<p>Proper definition of boundaries all around the site with World Heritage Emblems indications is required. A new buffer zone, in line with the extension of the park is urgently needed.</p>

<p>of Diaporit was fenced in September 2004 and repaired in March 2005 by workers paid for by the Butrint Foundation after a summer of conservation work at the site which saw extensive wall consolidation and backfilling, Conservation work is scheduled to be completed in summer 2005 and the site will be permanently fenced and presented for the public. The BF is paying for the work.</p>	
<p>Status of Implementation 2007</p>	<p>Recommendations 2007</p>
<p>There are no WH logo indications, as required. The State party provided the World Heritage Centre with a map of the new proposed boundaries of the site, the relevant governmental decree on the new boundaries and the Management zone prescription to be examined by the World Heritage Committee (plan ANNEX V).</p>	<p>World Heritage emblem plaque and logos should be installed in a proper location, mainly at the entrance point. Any major construction and development within the Park including paving of paths, new roads and infrastructure should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before implementation.</p>

Action 4 Install a temporary office at the entrance.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
<p>A temporary office at the entrance of the core site has been constructed for ticketing and access control. Some general information concerning the site (brochures, maps and history books of Butrint) are sold at the office. The funds collected at this office are used for the site. The mission has also noted that another office at the entrance of the Butrint National Park is under construction with the aim to indicate to visitors that they are entering the area of the National Park. This will also give an indication to the Office of the Butrint National Park of how many people are entering the National Park area in specific periods of time.</p>	<p>No further recommendation.</p>
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
<p>The temporary office at the entrance, which is a small wooden hut, has not been replaced by a more appropriate and permanent one. This might be related to the intentions of the site manager to lead the visitors in the future among the parallel fortification walls whose ruins are currently being excavated and partially reconstructed. Besides the mission's doubts about the quality of this restoration, the mission also believes that this plan will adversely affect the correct interpretation of the site. However, the main entrance gate of Butrint is still not known. The office at the entrance of the Park did not exist yet, and as indicated above, the southern entrances of the park are not indicated at all.</p>	<p>It is necessary that the itineraries within the site be respectful of its identity and of its interpretation and presentation. The boundary walls must not be used improperly, and it is recommended that the uniform design of the walls be seen in its unitary character. The rebuilding of parts of the wall without consideration for the restoration criteria must be stopped. Planting of trees along the newly-built avenues should also be stopped, because these disturb the correct interpretation of the site and, in view of the fact that the excavations are still incomplete, these may have negative effects on areas awaiting future excavations. Steps should be taken immediately to show the entrance from the south side and build a proper office next to the entrance.</p>
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
<p>According to the site manager, a new visitor's entrance to the park has been designed to improve visitor safety, sense of entrance and park identity, and to accommodate increased bus and car access to the intramural area. The new entry will have a renovated security fence, permanent ticket office, paved entry plaza, bus drop-off, and a new parking area away from the ferry landing and the visitor circulation area. The medieval defense walls of the city will be used to enhance the visitor experience upon arrival to the ancient city. These walls are being excavated, restored and stabilized to serve this purpose. Interpretive signs will be provided to explain the history of the site and the relation of the walls to the chronology of the development of the city. Although the</p>	<p>There is concern that the re-building work of the western defenses is being carried out without due attention to good conservation practice or a comprehensive plan for their end-use. Future archaeological excavations should try and identify ancient streets and gates so that the public will follow the city plan and not some arbitrary path.</p>

<p>defense walls in this location represent a later period than the city centre, it is felt that the new visitor location will be an improvement in safety and visitor management. The sequence of periods can be explained by interpretive panels and pedestrian safety will be improved by moving the entrance away from the busy ferry landing. The existing entrance has many functional deficiencies and similar problems with period sequence since the first thing one sees at the current entrance is the Venetian Tower, a monument from an even later period.</p>	
<p>Status of Implementation 2007</p>	<p>Recommendations 2007</p>
<p>New ticket office made of wood has been installed next to the entrance. There is no new parking for busses and cars, nor any other entrance facilities. Paving of the entry plaza started. There are plans for installing public toilets close to the entrance.</p>	<p>Proper visitors parking should be planned and implemented. Study for the best location of restrooms is needed. It is recommended that the new restrooms be chemical or biological and of light construction.</p>

Action 5 Ensure proper surveillance by police assigned to the site.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
A ranger service was created with the help of the World Bank (Institutional Development Fund) and is responsible for security and access control. Concerning the proper surveillance of the site by the Police – and particularly of the museum within the area – the mission was informed by the Institute of Archaeology that, by decision of the Government, it is envisaged that the police of state which was in charge of the security of all archaeological museums in Albania, would be replaced by a private security company.	The mission is of the opinion that an integrated surveillance system to ensure security within the site should be established as soon as possible.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Only the rangers mentioned above are still in operation. However, the mission members, when accessing the National Park through its southern entrance, did not see any surveillance at all. The funding of these rangers (whose legal position is being disputed) will end in December 2003. The mission members were informed that solutions were being sought to continue their contracts.	The mission is of the opinion that an integrated system should urgently be established, in coordination with the Ministries of the Environment and the Directorate of Forestry, to guarantee security in the park.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
Butrint National Park has established a permanent team of rangers who monitor the Park every day. Until recently, the salaries were paid by the Butrint Foundation, but since end-2003 by Park revenue. The training for the Rangers has been provided by the International Ranger Federation under the World Bank IDF Grant.	There is cause for concern that the ranger team is unmotivated, apparently as a result of salary cuts. Although providing security for the intramural site, the rangers show little interest in policing the wider Park area.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
There are 4 rangers in the Park. There was no proper job description or the understanding of the role of the rangers. The rangers do not have means of transportation.	The role of rangers should be clarified first and then make an assessment of the needs be on permanent or contract basis. The rangers should be provided with all the tools and appropriate capacity building which facilitate their work.

Action 6 Undertake immediate consultations with the appropriate authorities in order to prevent illegal and/or poorly planned constructions or development in the surrounding areas of Butrint.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The mission was informed and has noticed that development pressure is still very high within and in the surroundings of the Park. Several authorizations have been given for constructions (i.e. tourist facilities) that would represent threats to the site and its vicinity. However, national as well as local authorities reassured the mission that they are giving due attention to this issue. Assurances were given at the meeting with the Butrint National Park Board that project developments that had already been authorized will not be implemented.	The mission feels that the National Park Directorate's views should be sought for any construction project within the Park and its vicinity. An impact assessment study should be made by the National Park for any developments or changes of land use. Furthermore, all illegal buildings in the National Park should be removed.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
An important step forwards has been the Decree for the protection areas of the National Park, its buffer zone, and the RAMSAR area. The mission members were assured that all illegal buildings had been demolished, including the bar/restaurant at the entrance of the site. The construction of another building next to the Ksamili entrance of the Park has been stopped. The Prime Minister Fatos Nano had requested the demolition of illegal constructions. However, legally constructed buildings are still there. The term "legally" means, in this sense simply that the land was officially bought from the State.	Despite the demolition of several constructions, others have only been partially demolished, like the one next to the archaeological site of Diaporit (only the stair leading to the main floor had been destroyed), or still exist and are used (as in the "special archaeological area", which is also part of the World Heritage site). The mission recommends that the demolition of these buildings continues, and also that the remains of the others be removed. Furthermore, the quality of the constructions and their style in the surrounding areas of the Park should be strictly regulated and controlled, and the open waste landfills cleaned up, especially in view of the natural (water) protection of the area and the management of future visitors. The mission has also noted that only the marshy areas have been included in the Park's perimeter, while all the other areas, which may be built up in future, are not included in the Park. It is recommended that adequate legislative protection should be given to these areas as well, both regarding the buildings and the human activities that are held in it, as well as pollution.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
The Butrint National Park (BNP) is in permanent contact with the planning authorities at local and central level. While the construction in the village of Ksamil has been intensified, there are no illegal buildings on the BNP territory. The Park has apparently been assured by the Central Government that a 50m buffer zone will be established around its borders. In December 2004, the BF intervened to stop a	Vigilance is recommended to avoid construction that adversely affects the site. A clear buffer zone must be urgently designated and approved. If needed it should be surrounded by fence. The villages need a master plan which will make clear to all, where they can build and what activities are allowed, as nothing can function without the enforcement of law, regulations and approved plans.

<p>large holiday village development (initially 75 villas) on the peninsula bordering Alinura bay, which is very close to the Park boundary and within the Ramsar site. Likewise, privatization of the old state fisheries enterprise buildings behind the Hotel Livia and in the heart of the Butrint archaeological site was also stopped recently.</p>	
<p>Status of Implementation 2007</p>	<p>Recommendations 2007</p>
<p>The villages do not have Master Plan and construction continues at high pace. These constructions can have adverse visual impact on the National Park which maintains unique landscape. At present there seem to be no restrictions on distance of construction from the Park boundaries nor on the visual impact of the constructions, heights, character, colour, etc. The effectiveness of the new buffer zone has to be monitored. Mission was not aware of whether the development of the surrounding Villages is in sympathy with the sites Constructions situation in the village of Ksamil through which, the site has its main access is alarming.</p> <p>Despite the demolition of several constructions in the past, the construction next to the archaeological site of Diaporit, mentioned in the 2003 report, still remains.</p>	<p>Better control over development and construction in the villages included in the extended Park boundaries is required. As constructions situation in the village of Ksamil is alarming, a Master Plan for the village must be prepared as soon as possible to regulate future development and to prevent negative impact. The Park authorities should be involved in the preparation of the master Plan.. Better control over development and construction in the villages included in the extended Park boundaries is required. As a matter of urgency, park authorities should initiate a dialogue with planning and development agencies with a view to regulate the future developments in these villages in order to avoid negative impacts on the World Heritage site. The boundaries of the Ksamil commune and other villages have to be informed to the citizens and made aware and be sensitized.</p> <p>Demolition of the construction next to the archaeological site of Diaporit, should be examined as soon as possible.</p>

Action 7 Prepare and implement a programme of information and awareness among local and regional authorities, agencies and the population.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The project is underway; it includes a schools programme, community information campaign, promotion of the National Park to agencies in Tirana and the rangers' service equipment and training.	In this context, the mission recommends that an Albanian translation of the Butrint guidebook be produced as soon as possible and that interpretation panels should be installed on the main visited sites. Consideration should be given to the development of guided visits within the World Heritage site and of educational programmes specifically targeted at schools and young people
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
The current status of Butrint as a National Park is seen as a model for other Parks in the country. The Minister stressed her interest in developing a programme for schools to visit Butrint as it existed during the communist regime. Several informative guide-books on Butrint exist, and a revised version of them has been recently translated into English with the support of the Butrint Foundation. The rangers have been working there now for some time, and four part-time guides with a background related to cultural heritage are working at the site. The Information panels have not been installed. The director of the Park informed the mission of his intention to install them soon.	The mission recommends the Albanian authorities to participate in UNESCO's Associated Schools Programme and the Heritage Programme "World Heritage in Young Hands". Moreover, it is necessary to work harder for a correct interpretation and presentation of the site.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
According to the site manager, such a programme is well under way. He points out that the BNP organizes lectures for the universities of Tirana and Gjirokaster, as well as study tours for high schools in Albania and Kosovo. Lastly, he assures the mission that regular contact is being maintained with the local and central press as well as with the local and central authorities. Since spring 2004, and until September 2005, an Italian NGO, CISP, funded by the World Bank, has been running a community development programme in the surrounding villages to promote the Park. This includes development of handicrafts industry, bed and breakfast accommodation as well as a monthly supplement in a high school newspaper promoting the Park and environmental awareness. In July 2004, the Butrint Foundation organized and paid for an "open day" at the park for the surrounding villages. 150 people attended. In October 2004, the BF has also sponsored Ministry of Culture publicity material for Butrint at the London travel market. Interpretation of the site through information panels has made no progress, but a signage	The 2003 recommendations are reiterated. Interpretive signage should be installed as a matter of urgency. Direction and warning signs should also be installed. Archaeologists should look for and expose the city streets – the best possible interpretation for a city. Visitors should use the ancient city gate. Trees should be removed from the city walls to help interpretation.

<p>master plan has been prepared in recent months and the BF has provided funds for bilingual signage. Some 20 signs are expected to be in place by July 2005.</p> <p>The site manager points out that visitors are now provided with a coloured tri-fold leaflet that contains historic explanations, identifies monuments, maps a self-guided tour and lists Park regulations.</p>	
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
<p>Interpretation signs have been installed in different locations along the visitors' trails. Visitors receive interpretation leaflets at the ticket office. A visitor's questionnaire is being distributed for statistic purposes and level of satisfaction.</p>	<p>The interpretation panels require certain improvements mainly regarding location. Preparation of a comprehensive plan of interpretation and presentation is needed in a short term. Such plan should include issues such as visitor centre, further excavations, removal of vegetation from walls, etc.</p>

Action 8 Provide expert advice for the implementation of immediate actions and development in detail of the programme of international cooperation for the middle and long term.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
In this context, experts from the UNESCO Secretariat and ICOMOS participated in several workshops and missions	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Several international studies and missions have focussed on the area of Butrint. The UNESCO Secretariat and ICOMOS participated in several workshops and missions. Projects are being financed by the World Bank and the European Union, as well as by private organisations like the Butrint Foundation, the Packard Centre and several projects of the World Bank for both cultural and natural heritage.	To improve the efficiency in the implementation of these projects, good coordination of these projects should be sought in order to increase their impact on the site. The results of these projects are only very partially visible. The preparation of the management plan for the RAMSAR area gives a good opportunity to coordinate efforts of national and regional authorities, and of international programmes. A Round Table could be organised to prepare an integrated management plan for the area that supervises the implementation of these projects. Besides, it is important that international coordination be efficient in the phase that follows research and excavations, and that it is aimed at the protection of the structures and the excavated remains. It is important that researchers work and establish agreements with the Albanian government and that, on the basis of a detailed work plan, they follow all the phases of the research project, from the excavations to the safe-keeping and presentation of the individual structures that are excavated.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
In the past two years, several international assistance activities have taken place for Butrint. The Round Table organized in pursuance of Decision 28 COM 15A.28 adopted by the World Heritage Committee is a perfect example.	No further recommendation. It is obvious that any foreign expedition working on the site should follow not just the country's and site's rules but also keep in mind the long-term objectives of the development of the site.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
The management of the Park has been replaced and the Boudrint Foundation has also a new director. There is good collaboration between the Park authorities and the NGO.	The recommendation of 2005 should be followed for foreign and national groups.

(2) Status of implementation of medium and long-term actions

The medium and long term actions recommended by the joint mission held in 1997 were:

- A) Improve the conditions and presentation of the site
- B) Review the institutional framework for the management of the site
- C) Establish a management plan for Butrint
- D) Incorporate Butrint in Regional and local planning

A) Improve the conditions and presentation of the site

Action A1 Undertake hydrological studies and improve drainage systems	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
Hydrological studies have been undertaken confirming the delicate water balance in the region. Studies concluded also that the water level has been relatively high for a long period and that, if well managed, this does not pose a threat to the site.	Continuous monitoring should be undertaken, drainage systems should be well-maintained and measures should be defined that can further improve the water management.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
When interviewed, the representatives of the Albanian government stated that there are no plans concerning the hydrological system of the site, nor are there any projects in this sense.	As the previous mission recommended, "continuous monitoring should be undertaken, drainage systems should be well-maintained and measures should be defined that can further improve the water management". It is fundamental that an overall plan be put into effect for the conservation of the structures and the mosaics, and also for the correct management of the marshy sites, concerning the fauna and sustainable activities.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
Due to the lack of human resources, this recommendation has not been implemented yet. However the site manager is in contact with experts of "Ca' Foscari University" (Venice) to address this issue.	It is imperative that a thorough study of the water behaviour should be prepared. It should include documentation, analysis and proposed solutions. Drainage systems should be included in the study.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
The hydrological study is in progress. The International expert was contacted in 2006.	Complete the hydrological study as soon as possible, draw the conclusions and implement the recommendations.

Action A2 Undertake studies for the preservation and presentation of the structure and mosaics of the baptistery as well as other buildings.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
A seminar on the conservation of the baptistery mosaic took place in September 1998.	The mission is of the opinion that all known archaeological sites in the vicinity of Butrint should be monitored on a regular basis and that all proposals affecting known archaeological sites should be approved by the National Park Office. Furthermore, available resources for conservation should be concentrated on what is already exposed at risk, skills for the conservation of the site need to be developed and retained. As far as possible, only reversible techniques should be used for conservation of standing masonry. Further studies on the preservation and presentation of the mosaics should be undertaken.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Nothing has been done and, in fact, the situation has deteriorated.	The same recommendations as for 2001.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
A condition assessment survey started and there is a frame for a complete one for the whole site. However no one seems to be working on its completion. The mosaics are covered and protected. Also for the presentation and explanation of the mosaics in their historical context, the site management has started a project with University of Syracuse, Utica College, New York.	The condition assessment should be completed and include detailed recommendations for urgent action. The mosaics of the baptistery should be uncovered, monitored and be presented to the visitors. Training of mosaics conservators is urgent.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
State of conservation report is being conducted by international expert in collaboration with the site's monuments experts. In June-July 2007 experts from other Parks will join this group. The mosaic of the Baptistery were uncovered and backfilled again. Foreign mosaic conservators are involved in the preparation of documentation, conservation and maintenance plans. Vegetation growth management plan has been prepared and is being gradually implemented.	Conservation plans for the structures and the mosaics should be completed, prioritized and implemented. These plans have to be incorporated in the comprehensive management plan for the site. The mosaics of the baptistery should be uncovered, monitored and be presented to the public when conservation solutions were found.

Action A3 Establish a provisional museum	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
Nothing has been done regarding this action.	The museum is under the responsibility of the Institute of Archaeology. The mission did not have the possibility to visit the museum itself during the visit to the site. However, from a meeting with the Institute of Archaeology, the mission understood that, due to the lack of security equipment (i.e. alarm system), and of security personnel, the museum is still closed. The mission is of the opinion that everything necessary should be done to re-open and ensure security at the museum as soon as possible.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
It has been stated that the museum structures have been completed in Butrint, and that the Museum will reopen in the near future.	A future mission should evaluate the structures and the infrastructure of the museum when it reopens.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
<p>The museum in the Venetian Castle is currently being renovated and scheduled for opening in July 2005 with a new exhibit developed by the Institute of Monuments and the Institute of Archaeology.</p> <p>The work includes the re-roofing of the Ugolini tower following a bad renovation job carried out in 2002 -2003. The renovation of the museum will cost some €120,000, the funding of which is to be equally shared by the Leventis Foundation and the Butrint Foundation, with work co-coordinated by the BF.</p>	The mission was able to visit the museum now under reconstruction. Works are underway and could be completed by the summer of 2005 so that the opening of the museum could take place during the summer of 2005. This would represent an important step in the rehabilitation of the site and indeed a significant milestone in the process leading towards normalcy, every effort should be made towards that objective.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
The Museum was officially opened in October 2005 and it functions properly. The museum has been provided with a generator for assuring uninterrupted power supply. The museum is not managed by the Butrint National Park but by the Institute of Archaeology.	It is recommended that the Butrint National Park should be included in the management system of the Museum. The management of the museum should be integrated with that of the rest of the National Park, as already recommended by the 2001 mission.

B) Review the institutional framework for the management of the site

Action B1 Assign one Agency with management authority	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The Butrint Office and the National Park have been set up under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture. However, the museum of the site is under the responsibility of the Institute of Archaeology, which is independent of the Ministry of Culture.	
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
A Board of the National Park has been established. Representatives from different ministries participate in the meetings of the Board.	Effective coordination among the ministries, and within the Board, is encouraged.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
<p>The site has a proper management regime with decision-making authority and operational implementation capacity.</p> <p>The Park has been operating under a unified agency since 2000. The Ministry of Culture and the Board of the Butrint National Park with members from the other relevant Ministries provide the management framework for the Park. The BF has observer status.</p> <p>However, the Board members, chaired by the Minister of Culture, do not appear to meet at regular intervals and do not seem in a position to decide upon, or at least monitor, the preparation and implementation of the annual programme and the budgetary and financial management. A state audit is carried out annually, but is not considered by all as sufficiently rigorous. The mission has been informed that some members would like to see greater accountability as well as long-term action plans that are followed.</p>	Better coordination among the relevant state authorities would be beneficial for the site. A better definition of the site manager's role and improved relations with the board members are recommended.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
The creation of a new organ, which will include the two state authorities on archaeology and conservation is been considered. The board is meeting regularly and last meeting took place in March. Butrint National Park has no vote in the Butrint Board.	Effort for improving collaboration among the different authorities should continue. The Butrint National Park participation with vote in the Butrint Board should be envisaged as soon as possible.

Action B2 Establish a decentralised office of the site manager.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The Office of Butrint was created in 1998 and is located in Saranda (approximately 20 km from the site)	
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Done, but there is no staff yet, no task definition of future staff members or any concrete reference to their legal position.	The mission encourages the appointment of the staff of the office, based on professional recruitment, and with a clear definition of duties.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
The Park Office of Administration and Coordination was established in Saranda in 1999-2000. It has functioned since that time with an increasing staff to meet the needs of Park operations.	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
	No further recommendations.

Action B3 Provide adequate delegation of authority to the office of the manager along with adequate human and financial resources.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
<p>The Office of the Butrint National Park is meant to contain staff from local and national authorities working in an integrated manner under the Director of the Butrint National Park. However, full integration of all the responsible representatives on the ground is not effective.</p>	<p>The mission feels that this is not a satisfactory situation and that the Office of Butrint National Park should be given effective legal status and powers to enable it to achieve its objectives, that the government should move towards long-term financial self-sufficiency for the National Park and that the management of the museum should be integrated with that of the rest of the National Park.</p> <p>Furthermore, the mission is of the opinion that the Butrint National Park authority urgently needs the powers provided by a new law to prevent all building within the National Park. The mission was informed that this new law is under preparation.</p>
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
<p>Board should have medium and long term vision, and decision-making, controlling and auditing powers on the implementation of the integrated management plan by the Office. A new law exists; however, demolition has only partially taken place by direct decision of the Prime Minister. There are problems related to the effective enactment of the laws.</p>	<p>An objective recruitment system of professional staff is needed; Conservation and authenticity must necessarily become a priority, while the present view is conditioned by profit. The problem of the annual agreement is serious because the choices are casual and do not take into account the global needs for the conservation of the site. Priorities do not exist.</p>
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
<p>The Park Director working under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and the BNP Board considers that he has developed a clear delegation of authority for Park operations and management.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture appears to have granted the site manager a relatively wide delegation of responsibilities.</p> <p>Staffing has recently been expanded by the addition of four additional positions: Archaeology Specialist, Monuments Specialist, Environmental Specialist and Tourism Specialist.</p> <p>Financial resources from entrance ticket sales as well as various grants from the Butrint Foundations and from the private sector have significantly improved. For 2005, the BF contribution, which amounts to approximately €250,000 in infrastructure projects alone, far outstrips the reinvestment from the state or from ticket revenues.</p>	<p>As some of the new staff are young and may lack experience, training should be provided on a regular basis.</p> <p>On the basis of satisfactory performance evaluations, of new staff members, attractive medium-term conditions of work should be envisaged.</p> <p>As the financial resources have increased in a spectacular way, the auditing mechanisms should be refined accordingly.</p>

Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
<p>The site manager has no vote in the Board. Professional staff consists of a specialist of archaeology, a specialist for monuments, a specialist of tourism and a specialist of environment. A financial officer has been added to the site staff. The staff is continuously trained on job, working with foreign experts. More training is planned together with ICCROM, ICOMOS and World Heritage Centre towards end of 2007.</p>	<p>The Butrint National Park should participate with a vote in the Butrint Board, as already recommended in action B1.</p> <p>The management of the museum should be integrated with that of the rest of the National Park, as already recommended by the 2001 mission.</p> <p>No one on the staff nor of the hired experts has the expertise in comprehensive site planning. Experienced site planner should be involved in the site's future development and management plans.</p>

Action B4 Provide for adequate inter-institutional definition of roles and responsibilities, coordination and cooperation of both at the national and the local/regional level.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The National Park is overseen by the Butrint National Park Board, chaired by the Minister of Culture with representatives of the Institute of Archaeology, the Institute of Monuments, the National Committee for Tourism, the National Committee for the Environment, and the Saranda Municipality.	The Butrint National Park should be expanded to include representatives of all government departments with a role in the National Park. Effective participation within the National Park Office of the Institute of Archaeology, the Institute of Monuments, the National Committee for Tourism and the National Committee for the Environment should be achieved as soon as possible. Furthermore, as to the future, it is vital that the planning authorities both at the local and the national levels should take account of the existence of the Butrint National Park.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Done.	The mission feels the Board should also be enlarged with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It is necessary to establish better coordination, define the roles and powers of the organizations, and give priority to conservation problems. Relations with the local population and its involvement in the Park's management is also important.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
Tensions and indeed conflicts have continued to develop between the representatives of the Institute of Archaeology and the Ministry of Culture. The local representatives of both institutions have even resorted to taking legal action against each other.	The national authorities at an appropriate level should create conditions conducive to establishing institutional cooperation between the Butrint site management, the Institute of Archaeology (under the Albanian Academy of Sciences) and the Ministry of Culture, which also supervises the Institute of Cultural Monuments. In doing so, there would be merit in respecting the wealth of expertise accumulated by the two specialized institutions and in assessing the scientific growth potential of the BNP management office in realistic terms.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
It seems that the past tensions and bad relations are over. The creation of the new, joint organ for archaeology and conservation will further improve collaboration.	Continue improving collaboration.

C) Establish a management plan for Butrint

Action C1 Prepare an archaeological map of Butrint and its surroundings.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
An archaeological map of Butrint was prepared in the context of the draft management plan.	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
The map included in the Decree for the creation of the National Park does not include specific archaeological sites, just an “area of special archaeological interest”	A map should be drawn up for the park that would help surveillance of the area and ensure its safety. Smaller scale maps should be prepared with information on the archaeological sites and the structure of the Butrint peninsula.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
An archaeological map of Butrint was compiled in conjunction with the last management plan. The site manager intends to have it updated within the framework of the recent World Bank funded GEF planning and implementation project. The Butrint Foundation, which has prepared and published a detailed new map of the archaeology of Butrint, is not aware of such intentions.	A map (scale of 1:100 and not less than 1:250) should be prepared for all the areas. Such map should include not just the visible but also all information from historic excavations, which might not be visible nowadays.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
There is still no complete updated archaeological survey map. This activity is foreseen to take place during 2007.	The preparation of such map is a necessity for management, research and planning and should be a priority.

Action C2 establish and compile a site archive of scientific reports, documentations, photographs etc.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
This action is underway.	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
A database is being developed, not an archive as such.	Establish and compile a site archive of scientific reports, documentations, photographs etc., according to international cataloguing criteria, not only for movable goods but also for immoveable.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
An extensive database, compiled for the site by the Institute of Archaeology with assistance from the Butrint Foundation, is in the process of being made accessible on the internet. In 2004, some 8000 entries have been made.	Work should be pursued.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
Preparation of electronic archive of archaeology is in process. Other information exists in different places and institutions of the country.	Work should be pursued. Plans and documents of all activities on site (originals or copies) should be compiled in one central location in the Park's premises.

Action C3 Review World Heritage values of the site of Butrint, prepare a statement of significance.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
This action was undertaken in the context of the enlargement of the site.	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
The statement of significance has not been prepared, but should be part of the Albanian Periodic Report to be submitted in 2005. The mission members felt that the universal value of the site was not sufficiently taken into account.	The mission recommends the approval and implementation of a proper management plan, to be implemented by professional staff; conservation and authenticity criteria need to be strictly observed when preparing a long and short term work plan; tourist development taking precedence over authenticity and interpretation and presentation needs to be prevented.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
The Park Staff and BNP Board consider requesting a change to the WH site category of "Cultural Landscape." To the site manager, this category, which would expand the protection of the site to include the natural resources and the landscape setting, appears as appropriate, given the large area of the Park, its importance to Albania for the high biodiversity values, and the current protection status of the RAMSAR convention of an even larger surrounding area.	Following the extension of the park the revision of values is essential. It is also recommended to look at additional WH criteria under which the site should be inscribed. Natural values and significance should get more weight than they now have. The "Cultural Landscape" category is recommended for the site.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
The new management plan still does not include statement of significance.	Previous recommendations should be followed.

Action C4 Review in the boundaries of the World Heritage designated area and a surrounding buffer are clearly established and adequate; if required propose changes in boundaries to the World Heritage Committee.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The boundaries of the site have been reviewed. The Butrint National Park was created in 1999 and the extension of the site to include the whole of the park as a World Heritage site is effective since 2000. The area is now covers 29 square km.	No further recommendations.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Despite the beneficial review of the boundaries, the current level of protection with these new boundaries does not seem to be effective, as these new boundaries define the protection of a very fragile area, which cannot be built over because of frequent flooding. However this area is also prone to the effects of the pollution that may be caused by future buildings just outside the Park's perimeter.	Special legislation is needed for the buffer zone of the world heritage area (the Park), which includes the villages on the limits of the National Park. It would be ideal to include the villages in the Park, albeit on a different level of protection. This is done regularly in other European countries, where the villages are included in the parks so that they are integrated with them and so as to have the instruments for managing them. In any case the institution of the Park without a management plan makes little sense, because in actual fact a policy for its conservation, evaluation and development does not exist. Besides, structures and personnel who are responsible for its protection are lacking. This means that if nobody oversees the park or one of its archaeological sites, like Diaporit, and if due to the lack of control the structures are damaged, no judge or Court can summon those responsible. In practice, the director and the rangers are not accountable for their inefficiency.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
With the support of the Butrint Foundation, a feasibility study has been made to extend the Park boundaries to include the area of the Stillo Peninsula to the Greek border. As a part of the upcoming management plan update, additional areas adjacent to the current boundary of the Park within in the RAMSAR area will be studied for possible further Park expansion. The Butrint Foundation is funding the preparation of a documentation for a small expansion of the park boundary (north to cover the uninhabited peninsular north of Alinura bay, and east to cover the entire Butrint Lake) as well as to grant protected area status to areas such as the Stillo peninsula and some agricultural land around the Vrina plain. The project involves the preparation of habitat bio-	An approved new buffer zone boundary has to be submitted to the WHC. It has to be protected through master plans and enforcement of existing laws and plans. The site management should continue to improve relations with the members of the communities concerned.

<p>diversity maps, GIS surveys and extensive public consultation. The complete dossier may be submitted to the Council of Ministers by mid-2005.</p> <p>The Butrint Foundation has dropped plans to expand the Park boundary more radically because resistance from the local community may be anticipated.</p>	
<p>Status of Implementation 2007</p>	<p>Recommendations 2007</p>
<p>An approved new buffer zone boundary has been submitted to the WHC to be examined by the World Heritage Committee (plan ANNEX V).</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the new buffer zone has to be monitored. The boundaries of the Ksamil commune should be made clear to the citizens and respected. The citizens of the villages concerned with the new boundaries have to be informed about boundaries and made aware and be sensitized.</p>

Action C5 Prepare a comprehensive management plan for Butrint and its surroundings.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
A draft management plan for Butrint (2000-2005) has been prepared by the Butrint Foundation in cooperation with the Butrint Office. The Plan is based on work by many different people. There has been considerable involvement of all stakeholders, local, national and international, with a series of workshops in Saranda on various aspects of the management of the site.	The Management Plan for Butrint has yet to be formally adopted by the Albanian government as guidance for the management of the National Park itself and also for the activities held in the surroundings which could adversely affect the site. There is an urgent need for this formal adoption by the government. When it is adopted, it needs also to be recognised formally as guidance, conditioning the activities of all the bodies which could affect the conservation and sustainable use of the National Park.
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
Not adopted. There were complaints about the lack of transparency in the development of the plan, with little participation of Albanians.	A new integrated management plan should be developed including all stakeholders and strong participation of Albanian authorities (who will be finally responsible for it). The opportunity is given by the need to create a plan for the whole RAMSAR area. Therefore, the existing plans and studies should be integrated into it, remarking water system's management and sustainable activities.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
The site manager intends to have the current Park management plan (2000-2005) undergo an update process as part of the World Bank Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded Coastal Zone Management and Cleanup Project in Albania, as from September 2005. This update process is to address the issues that prevented adoption of the previous management plan, which could not be implemented formally because it had no implementation tools (detailed plans).	A new management plan, this time prepared following a transparent process and by professionals with experience in such process, should be prepared. It should include detailed action plans and not just recommendations for the preparation of such plans.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
A new document called Management Plan for 2007-2012 has been presented. The plan is not complete but it includes proper recommendations for further actions. The preparation process did not follow any accepted methodology and was not participatory. Comments were provided by the members of the WHC- ICOMOS-ICCROM mission. The mission has been informed on an ongoing study on fire prevention measures for the park.	The management plan should be completed, to include proper plans for implementation, and not just recommendations for the preparation of such plans. The plan should include visitors management, risk preparedness plan, cost estimates for the action plans etc. Time table for the completion should be agreed upon, but not be later than end of 2007. Assistance of an experience professional and training is required in the preparation of the management plan in order to update and complete the existing plan. The plan has to be approved by the highest national authorities and supported by the stake holders.

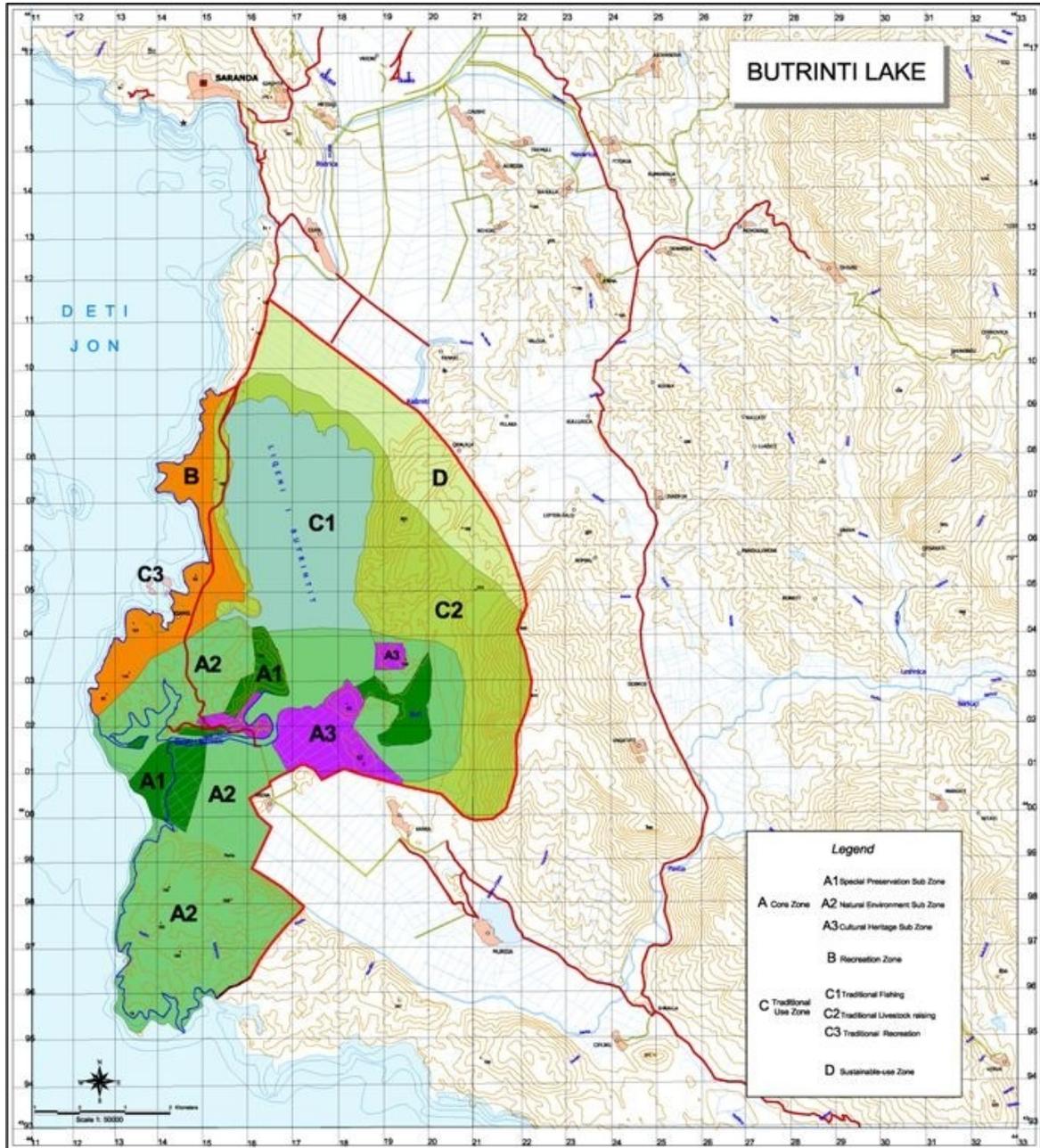
D) Incorporate Butrint in regional and local planning

Action D1 Ensure that the Heritage values, including World Heritage values of Butrint are fully considered in regional and local planning, and that the environment and cultural impact studies are undertaken when appropriate.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
<p>The significance of the site has been recognised by the creation of the National Park and by the extension of the World Heritage site to include the whole of the Park, as well as by the creation of the Park Office to manage it. An area of this size (29 sq. km) needs to be conserved in many different ways. While its significance lies in its value as a whole, separate elements require distinct approaches to protect and conserve their individual values and contribution to the whole. The range of potential threats is also very large. In this case, it could include the decay of standing structures, the erosion of standing structures or unexcavated archaeological remains, accidental damage, deliberate damage or vandalism, and theft and looting. Changes of land use, whether through agricultural change or through development of new buildings, are also likely to have an adverse impact both on the overall value of the site as a whole and its settings and on individual archaeological elements.</p>	<p>The mission feels that proposals for road improvements which would adversely affect the character of the National Park should not be permitted. In this context, and concerning the road Albania-Greece finance by the EU, the mission had received confirmation by the representative of the European Commission in Saranda that no support from the EU will be given to a project which could damage or threaten the World Heritage site of Butrint. The mission is also of the opinion that any proposed changes of land use should be subject to environmental impact assessment. Furthermore, the National Park Office should develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) as a basic management tool for the World Heritage site. Archaeological research programmes should be encouraged to improve the basic understanding necessary to manage the site to conserve its significance. A full annual maintenance programme should be developed and maintained and the condition of surveying all standing structures should be completed and prioritised so that it can be used as a basis for planning work programmes for major conservation projects. Finally the mission feels that development and master plans affecting the World Heritage site and its surroundings should be revised so that their policies are in conformity with the provisions of the World Heritage site Management Plan.</p>
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
<p>Nothing has been done.</p>	<p>The absence of an adopted Management Plan creates serious problems for evaluation. In fact the judicial instruments of reference are lacking. The same recommendations made by the mission of 2001 are still valid. The mission is of the opinion that any proposed changes of land use should be subject to environmental impact assessment. The mission wishes to point out the necessity of considering respect for the marsh's ecosystems.</p>

Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
<p>A coordinated approach to coastal planning is underway with the full support of the government in Tirana. The Coastal Zone Management and Cleanup Project is being administered by the Ministry of Territorial Adjustment and Tourism (MOTAT) with support and collaboration by the other relevant stakeholders at the national, regional, and local levels. Coastal planning by MOTAT, the ministry responsible for planning, design, and permitting of new construction along coastal areas, has been 'put on hold' until this project is underway. This is the same project that has funded the update of the management plan for Butrint and should result in coordinated planning for the Butrint area as well as the coast in general.</p>	<p>Proper master plans for the whole area surrounding the WH site, including Saranda itself, should be prepared, keeping in mind the natural and cultural values of Butrint. Impact assessments of the suggested plans are recommended.</p>
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
<p>Planning is on going, but no master plans have been prepared yet. The construction of three tourism villages in the buffer zone has been approved.</p>	<p>It is essential that the regional development plans respect and integrate cultural and natural values of the site at early stages in order to prevent conflicts. The mission felt that this should be undertaken as a matter of urgency and the Park authorities should play a crucial role in the process. The mission was informed that the construction of three tourism villages in the buffer zone has been approved. This is a clear sign of the lack of integrated approach and if the trend continues, there will be adverse and irreversible effects on the site.</p>

Action D2 Collaborate with the World Bank in reviving the “Albanian Coastal Zone Management Plan”.	
Status of Implementation 2001	Recommendations 2001
The status of this plan is unknown.	
Status of Implementation 2003	Recommendations 2003
The study has been published.	The mission feels that it cannot give a clear opinion on a plan that has not been adopted. However, it has the impression that some aspects of the plan do not correspond with the reality, like the description of Saranda as a tourist’s city with excellent infrastructures and hotels, or the use of sustainable agricultural methods in the Park.
Status of Implementation 2005	Recommendations 2005
The World Bank Coastal Zone Management and Cleanup Project has been revived with direct participation by the Butrint staff. Butrint Park received the first small grant from this Project to fund a site analysis of the area. Implementation activities in the Park are seen as a pilot initiative for conservation work for the balance of the Project.	The plan has not been presented to the mission, which emphasizes the advisability of ensuring the mobilisation of appropriate expertise regarding cultural and natural values. The plans should be presented and discussed by all concerned.
Status of Implementation 2007	Recommendations 2007
The World Bank co-funded coastal zone management plan has yet to begin. The Park has been told by World Bank officials that the GEF money for which it is waiting will become available in 2007. A meeting was held in January 2007 with the World Bank, who predicted action within the first six months of 2007. There is no further information.	Collaboration with the World Bank should be coordinated through the One UN Pilot Programme in Albania.

ANNEX V



ANNEX VI



Paving of entry plaza



Tickets office

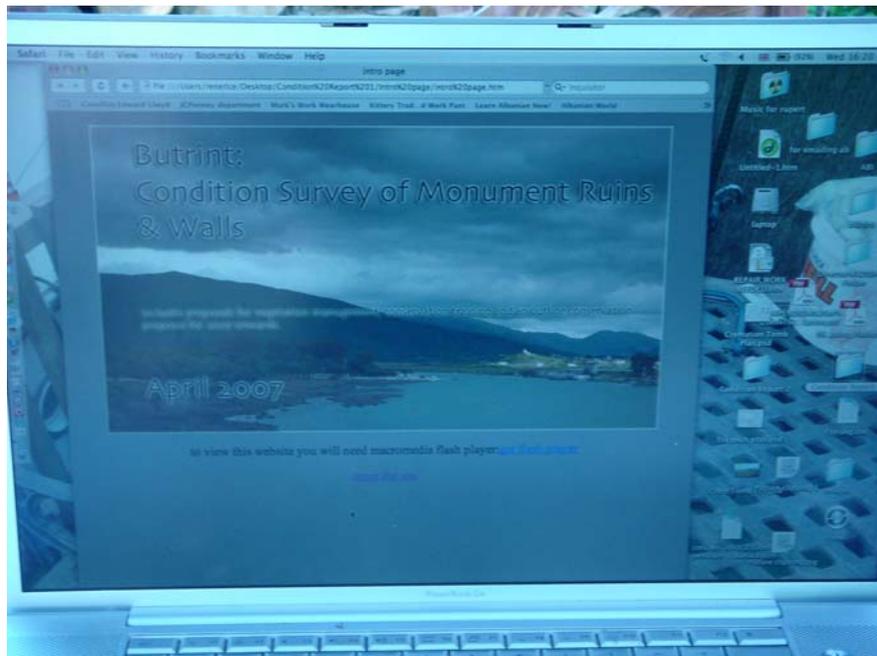


Panels



(UNESCO/WHC emblem)

Leaflet



Condition survey study



Butrint



Diaporit



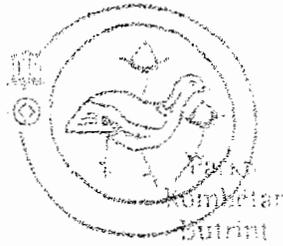
Meeting at the Butrint National Park office in Saranda.



Meeting at Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Office with Butrint and Gjirokastra teams.

ANNEX VII

BUTRINT NATIONAL PARK



ANNUAL REPORT 2006





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Map of Butrint National Park
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FORWARD



Annual Report 2006
Butrint National Park
Saranda, Albania

The year 2006, has been for the Butrint National Park a year of consolidation and achievements. Our primary objectives have been focused in two main areas; the scientific work of the Park and the implementation of the cultural tourism strategy that was initiated by Mr. Bujar Leskaj, the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports.

Our strategy for this year has been to collaborate with other governmental and non-governmental institutions in developing archaeological research in the Park: continuation of the new excavations in collaboration with the Institute of Archeology and the Butrint Foundation, consolidation and restoration of the main monuments of the Park. From the tourist point of view, the staff has worked on the protection and conservation of historical and environmental values and for their promotion nationally and internationally.

The success of this work can be clearly seen from the revenues, which this year, in comparison to 2005, have increased by 44.8%, and the general number of tourists who visited the Park, has increased to 48.012 visitors or 30% more than in 2005. The total amount of revenues of 14.420.000 Lekë collected this year, allowed us to make more investments in the restoration of monuments and in the infrastructure of the Park.

In order to build on this, our future objectives are to promote Butrint on a national and international level as a site that offers diversity of activities and to implement the Butrint Management Plan 2007 - 2012, which is not only



focused on the cultural and natural values, but also in education programmes and in the communities around the Butrint National Park.

In pursuit of these objectives, the Park specialists have participated in different conferences that have aimed not only to promote the cultural and natural values, but also the achievements in the management of the protected area as a good example for the other protected areas of the region. One of these activities has been the participation of the Specialist of Monuments in the conference of *"Conditions of Cultural Heritage in the Balkans"*, organized by ICOM, where she presented the *"Challenges of Best Possible Management of Butrint"*.

The Park staff, the community, the donors and other supporters have made a significant contribution towards the achievement of our objectives for 2006. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2007 will bring to this special place called Butrint.

Sincerely,



Prof. As. Dr. Ylli Cerova
Director of Butrint National Park



ARCHEOLOGY

During this excavation season, several projects were implemented as a collaboration between the Park, the Institute of Archeology and the Butrint Foundation. Within this context, all necessary assistance was given for supporting the archeological and restoration projects implemented in Butrint.

Vrina Plain is the centre of a 5-year research, examination and excavation project. It spans from the period of Augustus, when the Roman colony was founded, until Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. As well as those in the Basilica, excavations extended to the west of the Temple revealing a road running north - south almost from the temple

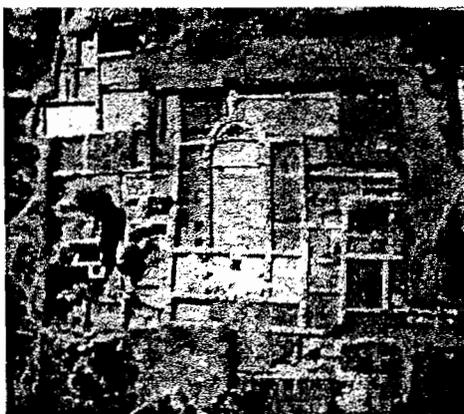


Fig.1 The Basilica in Vrina Plain,
(from the air)



Fig. 2, Entrance to the Villa with benches

steps. The road was built with a foundation of massive stone lumps and was paved with slabs and small stones placed close to each other. The date of this road is uncertain, but material beneath its basement contained a mix of ceramics including mid 1st century and other objects from the early 2nd century. It seems possible that the road was constructed within this period and as the temple steps seem to be related to the road, it also dates the period of the construction of the temple.



Fig. 3, Pavement of the Roman Forum

In the heart of the city, in front of the Tripartite building archeologists last year expanded the earlier excavations in their search for the Forum which was found no more than three metres down. The area was paved with limestone slabs and bounded by a gutter along its perimeter and by two marble steps leading to a colonnaded

portico. In the north it is crowned by the Tripartite Building where during the archeological excavations deposits were found of Hellenistic layers that brought to light the earlier development and history of the complex. In 2006, during the excavations a fragment was found of a figurine of terracotta that may be Bacchus and a set of silver jewelry that may date to the 2nd – 3rd centuries BC, in which can be seen two entwisted snakes that are a symbol of the Greek god Hermes.

For a long time this summer the Baptistery mosaic was uncovered, cleaned and recorded using photogrammetry, a contemporary method to help in its interpretation and the display in the future of this wonderful mosaic.

The results of the work of the excavations and restorations have been presented in a scientific conference, "*Scientific Session of Archeology 2006*", at the Institute of Archeology, where the Archeology Specialist of the Park presented the work and the results of the excavation which was done on the Acropolis to examine the Prehistoric period.

Furthermore, the scientific work done in Butrint has been the subject of many publications, including "*Triconch Palace, Practical Conservation in Monuments, and Site Presentation*".

The Butrint Museum was opened in 1960 with the archeological objects discovered during the Italian Archeological Mission (1928 - 1940). Excavations

of Albanian archeologists extended the collection and our knowledge of Butrint.

In 1988 museum was completed, presenting the long and rich history of the city. As a result of the events that occurred in 1997 in Albania,

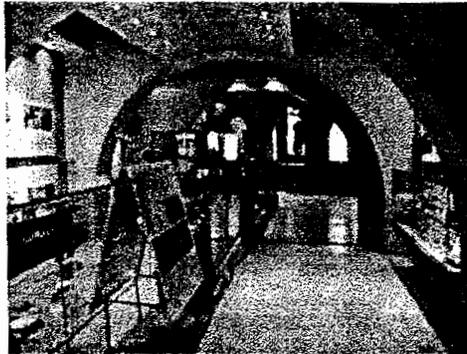


Fig. 4, Inside the museum on the Acropolis of Butrint

the museum was closed, only to be officially reopened on October 22nd

2005, when Dr. Sali Berisha, the Albanian prime minister, the minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Mr. Bujar Leskaj, and Lord Rothschild were all present at the opening ceremony.

It is a small elegantly designed museum which is very accessible to visitors. Many of the archeological objects found during archeological excavations are displayed in the museum, including the original Hellenistic statues and the statue of Julius Claudius. Smaller archeological objects found in the 80 years of excavations are displayed in 12 glass cases and, with the help of the interpretation panels, the visitor can clearly understand the different periods from Prehistory to the Middle Ages. This museum is very important for the promotion of Albanian cultural heritage and it provides a model for the development of museums in other archeological parks. In the reopening of the museum the Park was supported by the collaboration and the financial contribution of the Institute of Archeology, the Butrint Foundation, the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Packard Humanities Institute.

A power generator was installed for ensuring uninterrupted power so that the tourists can always visit the museum regardless of the power situation of Albania.

RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

The diversity and the originality of the uncovered monuments require responsible conservation, restoration and continuous maintenance. For this purpose, in the conservation field some projects were implemented that started in 2005 with the Trichonch Palace, which until then had been left out of the normal visit itinerary. Now, the Trichonch Palace is a complete monument, excavated to the highest modern standards. Very soon, there will be a publication of the monument, which has recently been conserved and restored. This monument is now presented to the visitor with all its values, and stands beside the other important monuments of Butrint.

In the summer of 2005, the work in the Trichonch Palace aimed at the

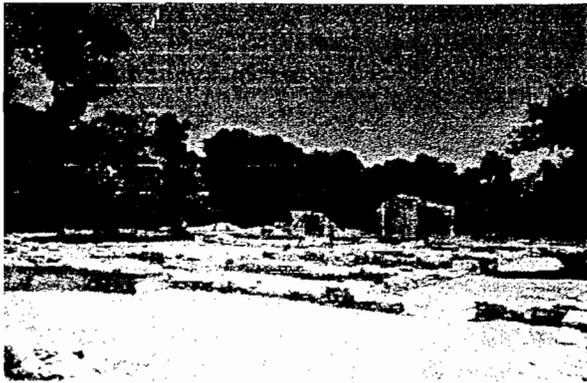


Fig. 5, Trichonch Palace after conservation - 2005

identification and the exposition of the main phase of the palace (4th century AD). At the same time, the objective of these interventions was to make the site easy to access and attractive to the visitors.

The first main problem faced during the work was the high and dense vegetation. The growth of vegetation damages the structures and accelerates their degradation. The removal of the vegetation was professionally done and with contemporary methods, using chemicals (Roundup) that were previously tested throughout Europe.

Another problem is that the monument, which is in the southern part of Butrint, is very close to Vivari Channel. The closeness to the channel causes high levels of water and depending on the climatic conditions some parts of the monument are always underwater.

The Trichonch Palace has been transformed into a unique archeological site within Butrint, making clear its importance as the only Late Antique dwelling complex (*domus*) within Butrint's surrounding wall.

Moreover, this year the conservation of the Nymphaeum (2nd century AD) was carried out. Even though it is considered to be in a good state overall, it was treated with solutions to protect it against moss and lichens.

Whereas in the Trichonch Palace and in Nymphaeum the problem was hostile vegetation, in Diaporit the main problems were the consolidation, the reopening, the backfilling and the stabilization of the ground around the monuments.

In Diaporit maintenance, it the Basilica was conserved and the Roman Villa and the Roman bath, which with the passing of time and from the impact of the atmospheric agents needed immediate intervention.

One of the main problems in the Basilica was the reconstruction and the consolidation of the

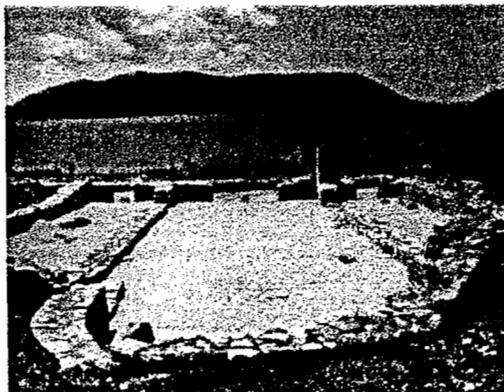


Fig. 6, Basilica in Diaporit, after consolidation

walls, because most of the stones on the topside were loose or even missing.

The central nave's walls were for the most part not compact. The upper rows of the walls showed a scarcity of mortar. For this reason, this row was "dismantled" and replaced on a new layer of mortar.

From point of view of investment 2006 was a successful year. As the

International Theatre Festival is now a Butrint tradition, the stage of the theatre was reconstructed to make it suitable for this dignified event.

Other important conservation projects were implemented in close collaboration with the Institute of Monuments. Very important projects such as the path at the Lake Gate, the Junia Rufina well and the entrance to the Museum, and a restoration project in the Triangular Fortress were successfully implemented. Moreover, two other restoration projects are in process. These projects consist of the restoration of the Junia Rufina well and the arch near the Agora.



All these contributed to the image of the Butrint National Park, both with regards to its infrastructure, and to its historical identity.

ENVIRONMENT

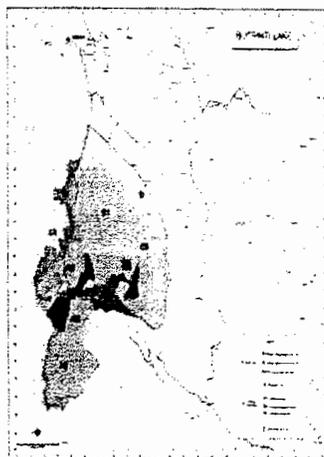


Fig.7 The new map of the Butrint National Park

Butrint National Park has been cited as having the highest level of biodiversity due to its variety of landscapes, from the costal wetlands up to the mountainous maquis. Lakes Butrint and Bufi, with their brackish water are the best habitats for a multiplicity of plants and animals. As a result the Albanian and foreign institutions estimated that Butrint not only has a unique combination of archaeology and nature but also that the natural environment offers real revenue potential for the Park.

As a result, the Council of Ministers in the year 2005 expanded the borders of the Butrint National Park from 29 km² to 85.96 km². This achievement was a product of intensive work and collaboration between different institutions and specialists. For this reason, a new environmental conservation project named GEF donated by World Bank is focused in Butrint for the initial protection of the costal area in Albania. In July a leading Italian environmental nongovernmental organization, Legambiente, that monitors and informs on the quality of the seawater and promotes the protection of marine and costal parks, organized a visit of its ship "Goletta Verde" to Butrint. This trip focused on the collaboration between natural Parks in the Mediterranean, aiming to give more opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experiences in the environmental field. Specialists from Galicica Park (Macedonia), Prespa, specialists from the Italian Cooperation "Transboundary" Project, and other representatives of the Italian and Albanian civil organizations took part in this

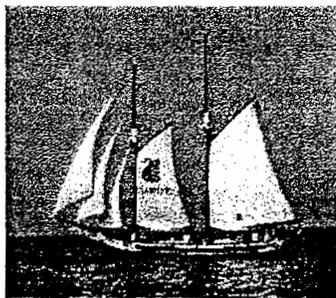


Fig. 8. Goletta Verde of Mediterranean

activity.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In the initiative for best management of the new archeological parks, a three day long training took place from 5-7th December 2005. This was organized by the British Council in cooperation with the Butrint Foundation and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports.



Fig. 9, The Archeological Parks management training

The training aimed to help the new specialists of these eight new Parks in the basics of management and to include them in regional development. As the best case study in Albania, the six-year experience of the Butrint National Park was used as a model.

This training was also worthwhile in that it brought together the specialists in the various fields, who are pioneering the new management service for Albanian Cultural Heritage that will be developed further in the years to come.



Fig. 10, Vegetation training

One of the Butrint management priorities is the control of the vegetation on the monuments. For this reason, an Italian specialist trained the Park's workers in new ways to handle more effectively the vegetation that grows on the Butrint National Park monuments.



TOURISM

The collaboration between the Park and community, which aims to support the development of the villages, has been extended in various directions including the bed and breakfast and school packs.



Fig.11, During the community training for new handicrafts products

In the past, the inhabitants produced many traditional handicrafts, but the economic problems of Albania have caused large-scale emigration and the traditional lifestyle has been largely abandoned.

The previous year's project was very fruitful, not only helping save the extinction of the traditional way of making local products but also contributing to the incomes of local families.

These products are the living witness of the Albanian tradition, which you can find in wood, stonework, traditional dresses, embroidery, carpets etc.

The most sold products are those that have motifs from the Baptistery. To expand on this idea, a training session was organized aimed at widening the range of



Fig. 12, Handicrafts produced by the Butrint community

products, using motifs from the mosaic in different accessories like necklaces, bracelets, hairpins etc.

Bed and breakfast aims to involve the tourist in the Albanian lifestyle and to help them know the Park better as visitors are exposed more to the culture and tradition of the surrounding area. This project has been started in several family houses in Xarra village.

School packs have to do with involving the pupils of the schools around Butrint to make them recognize and protect the natural and cultural values that this Park has. For these reasons, in December on Christmas and New Year Eve Saranda's Orphanage was invited to visit the archeological area. The

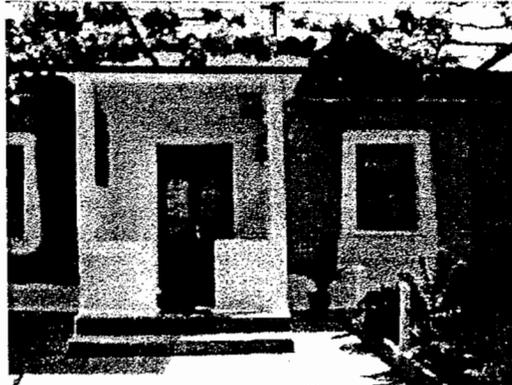


Fig. 13, House in Xarra village



Fig.14, The first Agriculture Fair near Triangular Castle

children were introduced to the Park and the museum and a cocktail was organized for them.

In addition, this year for the first time, the Community Agriculture Fair was organized. The inhabitants living around the BNP exhibited products such as mountain tea, honey and watermelons. This fair was organized nearby the Triangular Castle, encouraging visitors not only to visit the exhibition of the local products but also to visit the castle.

Several projects have been implemented in 2005 – 2006, aimed to make the visitors' tour more enjoyable. In 2006, Butrint was visited by 48,012 Albanian and foreign tourists. To increase the visitor's understanding of the site of Butrint, interpretive panels were placed at key monuments.

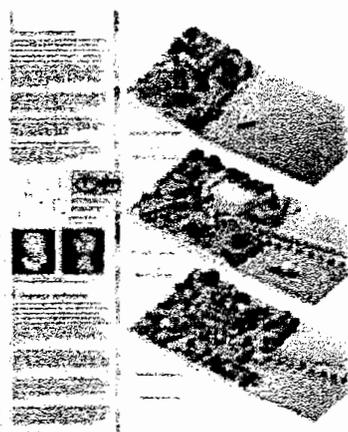


Fig. 14, Interpretation panel at Nymphaeum

Fifteen of these panels provide a chronological tour around the Park's monuments, revealing the growth and the development of the city, including the characteristics of the most important monuments and the evolution of the different phases and periods.

Six other will be installed in the trails outside the intra-mural site. The Philanthropic Collaborative (New York) generously funded this project. The panels are bilingual (in English and Albanian) and have very detailed colour drawings made by Studio Link (Florence).



They have contributed hugely to tourist experience and the public reaction has been extremely positive.

In order to promote itself more widely, the Park participated in several International Fairs. Our aim is to increase the number of visitors coming to Butrint. For this reason in the International Fairs organized in Berlin, New York and London the special archeological and environmental values of Butrint were promoted.

Also, in collaboration with the Butrint Foundation the Butrint website is being redesigned and enlarged. This will be available to the public in May 2007.

Following the model established in the recent site and museum panels at Butrint, the website will serve as compelling link between a virtual and an actual visit to Butrint. The site is also intended for a wider public, from potential visitors and schoolteachers, to interested individuals as well as academics seeking further information.

Initially pages provide guided tours of the site, its history and its regional context. On each page, the secondary menu bars offer information on individual monuments, periods, places and persons that have had an impact on Butrint. The website will include practical details, like directions for how to get to Butrint National Park, information about Bed and Breakfast accommodation and many details about the Butrint National Park.

The primary aim of the website is to create an attractive introduction to Butrint and its immediate surroundings, and to encourage an actual visit to Butrint and to Albania in general.

During the season, tourists are provided with two different leaflets, one that focuses on the history and archeology, and the other on the environment of the Butrint National Park. These new leaflets are bilingual and given free to visitors.

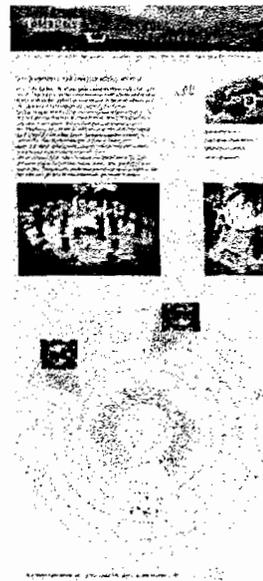


Fig. 15, History leaflet

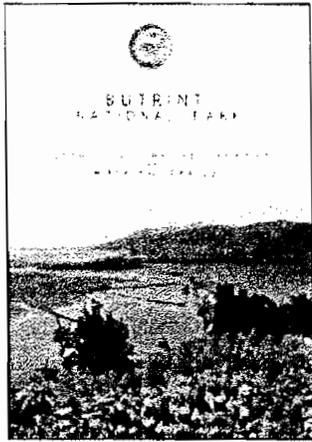


Fig. 16, Environmental guide of the Butrint National Park

A new publication is the 34-page illustrated guidebook, which offers a comprehensive and colourful guide to the environment of Butrint, including detailed maps showing the various walking trails around the Butrint National Park. The guidebook focuses on the different types of habitat at Butrint as well as the enormous variety of fauna and flora that can be seen in the Park – many of which globally endangered. There are English and Albanian versions of this guidebook.

The publication is on sale at the Butrint National Park. We hope that additional re-prints will be made possible by income received from the sale of the book.

Following UNESCO's recommendations, the Park has a new ticket office that is at its entrance. As the visitor numbers are growing every year, a secure ticket office needed to be built. The structure is made of wood so that it fits well with the natural tranquility of the Park. The new ticket office is also used as a visitor information center.

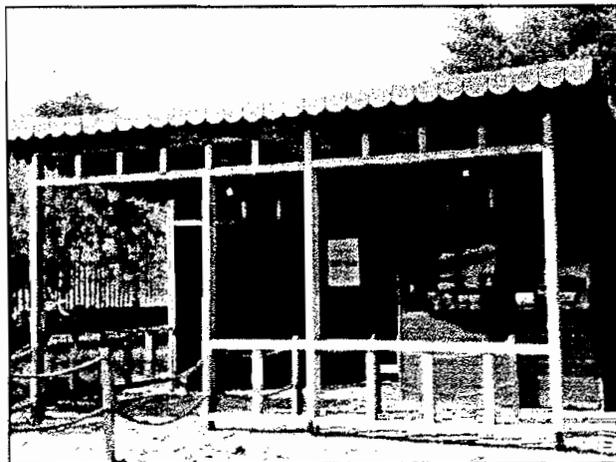
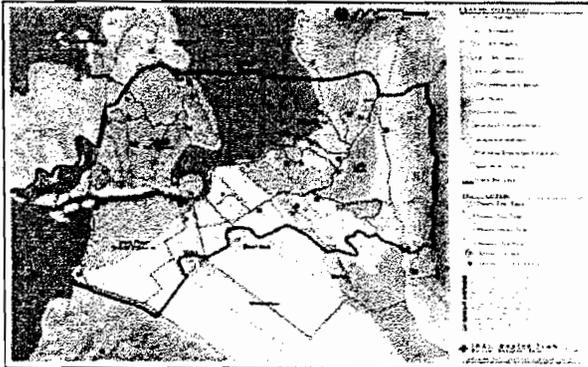


Fig. 17, Ticket office

Environmental Trails. Outside the medieval walls lies a territory with various historic centers, including a Roman cemetery, villas and sanctuaries, as well as a Venetian and an Ottoman Castle. These monuments are in a fabulous lagoonal environment, which is one of the most important habitats for plants and animals in Albania. Here globally endangered species can be seen, like

the Marginated Tortoise and White-Tailed Eagle, while during winter the submerged marshes are habitats of a great diversity of visiting birds. The international importance that Butrint Park and its surrounding marshes have,



was recognized when it was declared a Ramsar Zone in 2003.

A network of trails leads to many places of historical importance. Paths lead across a variety of Mediterranean habitats

including grazing land, marshes, Mediterranean maquis and olive-groves.

Four trails were developed as a result:

1. Kalivo trail (wetlands, Mediterranean maquis, 6th century BC fortified hill site of Kalivo, olive/orange groves)
2. Butrint Bay trail (Triangular Castle, coastal wetlands, Ali Pasha castle)
3. Lake Bufi trail (a trail leading from the Kalivo trail around the Bufi wetlands)
4. Mount Sotira trail (wetlands, Mediterranean maquis, forest, olive groves)



EVENTS



Fig. 19, Miss Globe International 2006 evenimen made in Butrintit Theater.

"The nymphs of the water" were revealed again in the ancient theatre at Butrint, but this time they were coming from all the world waters not only from the nearby lake. These were the contestants in Miss Globe International 2006. Following the previous fruitful collaboration, Deliart Association has returned with an extraordinary show. This gave us the chance to promote the Park as the

show was broadcasted on many national and international TV channels.

"Butrint 2000" is now not only one of most important of the Park's events but it has now turned into a tradition. This year the 7th festival took place, and it was attended not only by the Balkan troupes but those from those further afied. Every evening the event had a large audience and was rich in its variety of music, culture, languages and theatrical styles. The festival



Fig. 20, Asclepius, La Mamma, New York thearer troop

program included performances from seven different countries and this year the ancient theatre welcomed "Andromache" by a French troupe, "Electra" from the Netherlands, Aeschylus' "War Gifts" from New York, "War Gifts" from

Italy, "Don Juan" by a Bulgarian troupe, "Iphigenia in Tauris" from Greece, and "Ilir Plot" from of Kosovo.



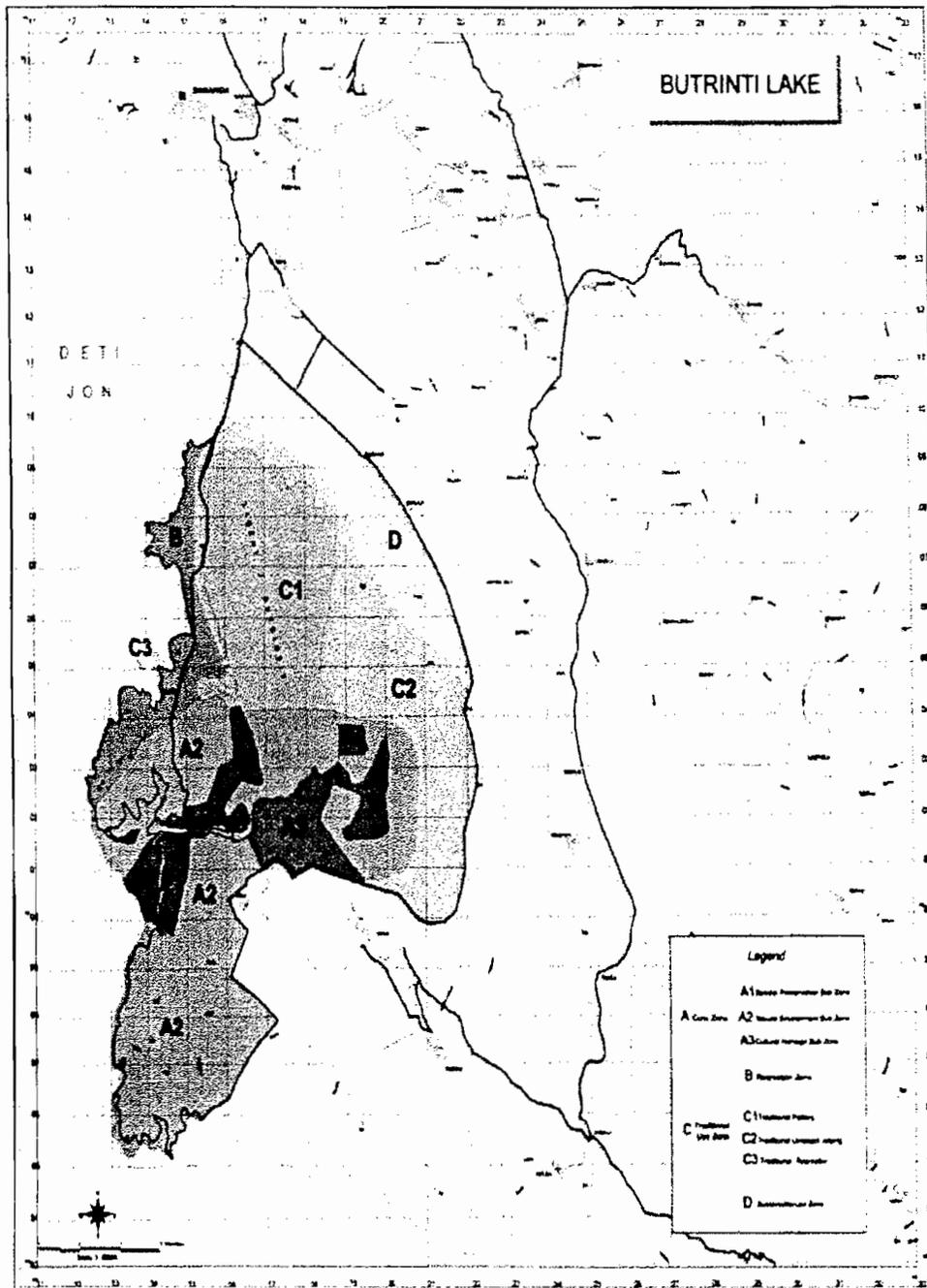
APPENDIX

Map of the New Enlarged Park

Visitor numbers – 2006

Financial Statement – 2006





1 January-31 December 2006

City/county	Ticket	Total visitor number					TOTAL
		100	200	500	700	Free	
TIRANË	3260	2354	0	0	1146	6760	
DURRËS	2920	1460	0	0	970	5350	
SHKODËR	420	386	0	0	120	926	
KRUJË	38	16	0	0	0	54	
KAVAJË	168	46	0	0	13	227	
RROGOZHINË	276	80	0	0	80	436	
ELBASAN	878	264	0	0	130	1272	
KORÇË	750	178	0	0	65	993	
BERAT	664	190	0	0	90	944	
FIER	970	486	0	0	320	1776	
LUSHNJE	478	196	0	0	120	794	
VLORË	1030	476	0	0	820	2326	
PËRMET	368	108	0	0	46	522	
TEPELENË	240	85	0	0	65	390	
GJIROKASTËR	228	96	0	0	18	342	
SARANDË	270	420	0	0	235	925	
DELVINË	150	125	0	0	86	361	
LEKSOVIK	90	30	0	0	2	122	
DEVOLL	60	80	0	0	6	146	
ERSEKË	130	68	0	0	2	200	
GRAMSH	46	36	0	0	1	83	
LIBRAZHËD	58	16	0	0	2	76	
KUÇOVË	40	99	0	0	6	145	
MIRDITË	18	6	0	0	0	24	
PESHKOPI	32	26	0	0	0	58	
KUKËS	68	50	0	0	6	124	
LAÇ	45	13	0	0	0	58	
MAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SKRAPAR	120	86	0	0	46	252	
MALLAKASTËR	165	142	0	0	90	397	
KOSOVË	160	18	0	0	26	204	
TOT, ALBANIANS.	14140	7636	0	0	4511	26287	
FOREINERS							
ENGLAND	0	0	7300	140	15	7455	
GERMANY	0	0	3765	65	28	3858	
FRANCE	0	0	1043	102	0	1145	
SWITZERLAND	0	0	101	0	0	101	
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	0	210	81	0	291	
USA	0	0	2810	350	0	3160	
GREECE	0	0	500	261	36	797	
ITALY	0	0	400	520	10	930	
SLOVAKIA	0	0	0	36	0	36	
IRELAND	0	0	23	0	1	24	
ISRAEL	0	0	40	3	0	43	
JAPAN	0	0	0	52	0	52	
BELGIUM	0	0	415	14	0	429	
AUSTRIA	0	0	306	14	0	320	



CANADA	0	0	75	16	0	91
COLOMBIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUNGARY	0	0	36	79	0	115
NETHERLANDS	0	0	820	328	4	1152
SPAIN	0	0	36	58	4	98
RUSSIA	0	0	20	52	0	52
BRAZIL	0	0	0	0	0	0
TURKEY	0	0	0	10	0	10
BULGARIA	0	0	0	6	0	6
KOREA	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAUDI ARABIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
ICELAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
UKRAINE	0	0	0	7	0	7
MACEDONIA	0	0	560	250	32	842
POLAND	0	0	43	26	0	69
CROATIA	0	0	0	20	0	20
SLOVENIA	0	0	0	93	0	93
DENMARK	0	0	60	7	4	71
NORWAY	0	0	40	3	0	43
SERBIA	0	0	55	9	0	64
PUERTO RICO	0	0	0	2	0	2
SCOTLAND	0	0	1	9	0	10
SWEDEN	0	0	25	0	0	25
WALES	0	0	1	4	1	6
NEW ZEALAND	0	0	0	14	0	14
CHINA	0	0	0	9	0	9
ROMANIA	0	0	0	26	3	29
AUSTRALIA	0	0	48	18	0	66
FINLAND	0	0	30	25	0	55
ESTONIA	0	0	0	6	0	6
MALTA	0	0	173	0	6	179
TOT. FOREIGNERS	0	0	18936	2715	144	21725
TOTAL	14140	7636	18936	2715	4655	48012



FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 2006

BUTRINT NATIONAL PARK
Office of Administration and Coordination

Income and Expenses for the year 2006

			EXPENSES
Item	Description	Amount	Sub Total
1.	BUDGET EXPENSES		5,259,000
	Salaries-Wages	3,293,000	
	Insurance	802,000	
	Operating Costs	1,164,000	
	Office supplies		
	Equipment		
	Postage		
	Telephone		
	Rent		
	Utilities		
2.	REVENUE EXPENSES		4,209,000
	Wage Bonuses	288,000	
	Park operating costs	3,921,000	
	Maintenance		
	Equipment		
	Guides		
	Contract Workers		
	Utilities		
3.	PROJECT INVESTMENT EXPENSES		7,763,000
	Butrint Stage	1,350,000	
	Projects and Conservations IM	2,785,000	
	Park Infrastructure Projects (2005-2006)	2,693,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES			17231000

			INCOME
Item	Description	Amount	Sub Total
1.	Park ticket sales	14,297,000	
2.	Ministry of Culture (Annual Park Budget)	5,460,000	14.420.000
3.	Grants	3,870,000	
4.	Other (Books, T-shirts, etc Sales)	123,000	
TOTAL INCOME			23,750,000

