

# ALBANIA

## Butrint

### Brief description

Inhabited since prehistoric times, Butrint has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marches formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of ruins representing each period in the city's development

### 1. Introduction

**Years of Inscription** 1992, 1999

**Years of inscription on List in Danger**  
1997-2005

### Agency responsible for site management

Ylli Cerova (Director, Butrint National Park)  
Daniel Renton (Director, Butrint Foundation)  
Diana Ndrenika (Packard Humanities Institute)  
Solinda Kamani (Institut of Monuments)

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (iii)

- Change to criteria: proposed additional criteria N (i)

### Justification provided by the State Party

A part ses valeurs particulières en tant qu'un ensemble compact assez rare, Butrinti représente de grandes valeurs quant à son riche histoire, la diversité, la valeur et la richesse de ses monuments appartenant à des périodes et genres différents. Il suffit de mentionner les nombreuses phases comportant des valeurs d'étude pour l'histoire de l'architecture militaire, des murs d'enceinte et d'autres constructions défensives de la ville, des monuments paléochrétiens avec des valeurs uniques telles que le baptistaire etc.

Le centre archéologique de la ville, en ce qui concerne les particularités ambiantes, la richesse des monuments appartenant à de différentes époques et la continuité de la vie depuis la préhistoire jusqu'au bas moyen âge attestés par

des sources historiques et des témoignages matériels, représente un cas rare dans la variété des villes antiques-médiévales héritées jusqu'à nos jours.

### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS (1992): Criterion (iii): The evolution of the old natural environment which led the inhabitants to abandon Butrinti at the end of the Middle Ages means that this archaeological site provides valuable evidence of ancient and medieval civilizations on the territory of modern Albania.

ICOMOS (1999): That this extension should be approved, on condition that the State Party withdraws permission for development of the area to the west of the main archaeological remains and includes it within the inscribed site.

### Committee Decision

(1992): The Committee made no statement.

(1999): ICOMOS expressed its concern that tourism developments in a small area on the coast, excluded from the proposed extension, could have a disastrous impact on the site. ICOMOS, therefore, strongly recommended that this area be included in the protected area.

The Committee decided to extend the property under the existing criterion (iii) under the condition that the excluded area would be included in the zone of the proposed enlargement.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required

### Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- no buffer zone has been defined
- further work needed for the definition of a buffer zone

### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- The extent of the archaeological area is bigger than originally envisaged, but the Park boundary protects it adequately. There is always the threat of adverse development outside the Park boundary, but at present this development is contained

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- There is zoning within the Park boundary which is mainly respected
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

#### Actions proposed:

- Better communication with local authorities to inform and collaborate with protective measures

### 4. Management

#### Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, national park, rural landscape

#### Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: The park has a management board, which was set up in 2000 with the establishment of the National Park. Its function is to oversee the activities of the Park
- Site manager on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

#### Actions proposed:

- Better salaries, more informed involvement and steering group

### 5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 2003
- Very effective
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: The Butrint National Park management in conjunction with support from the Butrint Foundation

### 6. Financial Resources

#### Financial situation

- State Budget
- WHF
- UNESCO International Campaign
- Butrint Foundation
- World Bank; Leventis Foundation (for the Museum); (WHC info)
- Sufficient

### 7. Staffing Levels

- number of staff: 5 staff members dedicated full time; No adequate staff resources to protect, maintain and promote the site

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: interpretation
- Good: visitor management
- Average: management, promotion, education
- Bad: conservation

### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Ad hoc training. No training available for stakeholders
- There are training needs on conservation, vegetation management, conservation of the Museum of Artefacts

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 50.000 tourists, 29.000 foreigners on day-trips from Corfu, Greece, year 2005 (yearly increase)
- Visitor facilities: renovated Museum (2005), small ticket office, shop, toilets
- Visitor needs: site needs new and bigger facilities to cope with growing number of tourists. Ultimately a visitor centre; A plan exist within the Butrint Management Plan / Development Study

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, on annual basis
- As a result of the studies, the Butrint National Park is attempting to upgrade facilities
- Specific effort to focus on the recognized World Heritage values of the property

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors

- More community participation need for awareness raising
- Web site available
- Local participation

## ***12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)***

### **Reactive monitoring reports**

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 18th (1994); 20th (1996); 21st (1997); 22nd (1998); 24th (2000); 25th (2001)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 20th (1996); 21st (1997); 22nd (1998); 23rd (1999); 24th (2000); 25th (2001); 26th (2002); 27th (2003); 28th (2004); 29th (2005); 30th (2006)

### **Conservation interventions**

- Conservation survey and monument conservation after archaeological excavation
- Present state of conservation: adequate

### **Threats and Risks to site**

- The site can be affected in the future by pressures, but not at the present

## ***13. Monitoring***

- No formal monitoring programme, however both specialists and rangers work at the site
- No future indicators to consider

## ***14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions***

- Main benefits of WH status: economic
- Since inscription of the site on the World Heritage List: rangers programme, archaeological and conservation programme, management plan, renovated museum, interpretative signs, guidebooks, walking trails

### **Future actions:**

- Implementation of the management plan