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ANNEX

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE STATE PARTY OF ALBANIA CONCERNING THE POINTS RAISED BY ICOMOS AND IUCN PANELS

SEWAGE TREATMENT AND WATER QUALITY

As stated in the Management plan supplement for the protected landscape of Ohrid Lake (approved by Order of Minister of Environment in September 2017), on matters related to the untreated sewage and waste water, existing sewage treatment works do not yet cover all settlements, and many individual buildings and developments on the coast rely on septic systems which may not function correctly.

Treated sewage and wastewater cover 90 % of the territory and only 10 % fall outside the system of WWTP of Pogradeci. Outputs from sewage treatment works is still enriched with nutrients, but as stated in the document of September 2017, it is a subject to a tertiary nutrient stripping process (to remove phosphorus). Such facilities have been recently installed and are being tested at Pogradec.

There is a plan to complete the upgrade of the Pogradec sewage treatment plant at Zagoracan to include nutrient stripping by the end of the year.

Other measures as identified in the document consist on the obligation for all new residential and tourism developments to have install the minimum required standards of sewage treatment.

Establishment of the arrangement for water monitoring and analysis partnership (with the Pogradec Sewage Treatment Works with the NAPA and NEA is in the process.

RAPA of Korca district in cooperation with NEA is carrying out monitoring of biodiversity, water quality and fishery activities in LOR.

COLLABORATION

The overall approach to governance will be co-management, under the guidance of the existing Management Committee for the Pogradec Protected Landscape, reshaped to ensure



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engagement of main stakeholders involved the management and administration of the proposed extension and to meet the needs of World Heritage management.

Under co-management, all partners will cooperate in protection of OUV of the proposed extension and implementation of the management plan within their own competences and responsibilities. Special task forces shall be established for joint activities and projects.

Engagement of different stakeholders shall consist in:

- Consultation and engagement over programmes and activities directly affecting groups and individuals in the area;
- Stakeholder representatives on the Management Committee;
- Stakeholder participation in technical working groups of the Management Committee;
- Transparency over decisions and actions of the Management Committee and its members;
- Opportunities for stakeholders to contact and engage with those responsible for day to day management;
- A general open and inclusive approach to working with an engaging of local stakeholders and community;
- Active efforts to avoid and resolve challenges resulting from implementation of the management plan.

The existing national Law on Protected Areas requires that all protected areas in Albania have a multi-stakeholder Management Committee. Such a Committee has been already established for the Pogradec Protected Landscape. This Committee, working under enhanced terms of reference, will be responsible for ensuring adequate implementation of the management plan supplement, coordination between the various stakeholders, and ultimately maintenance of the OUVs of the area.

Beyond its existing role, the overall purpose of the Management Committee is to ensure that policy frameworks at all levels conserve and sustain the Outstanding Universal Values, and the integrity and authenticity of cultural and natural values and attributes of the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone.

The Management Committee should ensure, through coordinated implementation and monitoring of the management plan supplement and other plans affecting the area:

- Maintenance of the OUV of the World Heritage Extension Property in Albania and of associated natural and cultural values;



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- Protection of the World Heritage Extension Property in Albania and its setting, including any buffer zone, from inappropriate development and activities;
- Balancing the needs of conservation, biodiversity, access, the interests of the local community, the public benefits of development and the sustainable economic use of the World Heritage Extension Property and its buffer zone;
- Enhancing the World Heritage Extension Property and its setting where appropriate and possible through positive management;
- Protecting the World Heritage Extension Property from climate change but ensuring that mitigation and adaptation is not at the expense of integrity or authenticity;
- Seeking and coordinating funding and other support for implementing the management plan;
- Coordinating planning and management with authorities responsible for the World Heritage Property in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The Management Committee will be re-shaped jointly by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Culture. The Committee will report to both Ministers and to the National Commission for UNESCO.

The Management Committee will have a broad range of membership (15 permanent voting members) representing different central and institutions and stakeholders operating in the area.

Invited representatives from the administration of the Macedonian part of the World Heritage Property shall participate to all meetings of the MC as a non-voting contributor.

The Committee will meet at regular meetings twice per year. Extraordinary meetings may be called upon request or in case of emergency situations arising in the area.

Planning, monitoring and reporting

Monitoring will take place on the basis of progress towards the specific targets established for achieving the objectives of the management plan supplement.

One month in advance of each Management Committee meeting, the Secretariat will request from all responsible agencies a report on progress towards achieving the relevant objectives.

The Secretariat will compile an overall report based on this information, to be circulated to the committee with the agenda.



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The report will be for the previous 6 months and will include:

- Itemise each objective and target, summarise activities and progress in the previous six months and specify progress towards the target;
- List other events and activities that have taken place;
- Summarise major issues raised by members and stakeholders.

Reports will also be circulated to the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO

Transboundary cooperation

Coordination with the Macedonian part of the World Heritage property will take place in a range of ways.

- Formal representation from the Management Committee on the Transboundary Water Management Committee for Lake Ohrid and other relevant bodies;
- Invitation to Macedonian counterparts to attend and contribute where relevant to meetings of the Management Committee;
- Routine communication of decisions and documents to Macedonian counterparts;
- Invitation to Macedonian counterparts to attend and participate in all relevant events and activities.

Joint Lake Ohrid Management Board was established with Memorandum of Understanding between Governments of Macedonia and Albania, since a long time ago.

Joint LOMB includes highest representatives of MTE, local authorities (mayors) and representatives of NGO's from both sides - as voting part

Joint LOMB held seven meetings discussing issues on waste water treatment, protection of Ohrid trout, institutional issues, coordination and following the implementation of the LOCP Decision of joint LOMB is to establish the Day of Ohrid Lake (21 June).

RAPA Korçe has recruited one person in the work position secretar (or member of secretariat) for Joint Lake Ohrid Management Board. He has participated in all common activities with macedonian partners. He is informed and has prepared yearly report for all the work done in the frame of transboundary cooperation.

NAPA and RAPA Korce have been active participants in the meetings and monitoring activities in the frame of the GIZ Project 'Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in the lakes of Ohrid, Prespa and Shkodra'.



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RAPA Korce has developed in the last time regular contacts with Galicica National Park Administration. Galicica NP includes the biggest part of Ohrid macrocatchment in North Macedonia.

New opportunities are created for a close transboundary collaboration in the frame of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Ohrid-Prespa awareness campaigns and other activities.

STAFFING AND RESOURCES

The Cultural Component of the proposed extension

The proposed extension and buffer zone is under the direct administration of the Regional Directorate of National Culture (RDNC) in Korça, based in Korça with two dedicated departments respectively in Pogradec and Kolonjë-Bilisht. The RDNC has jurisdiction over 6 municipalities (Korça, Pogradec, Maliq, Pustec, Kolonja, Devoll) covering 178 cultural monuments of 1st category, 3 historic centres, 1 archaeological area and 29 protected areas of monuments.

At present, the Regional Directorate of National Culture in Korça numbers 21 staff members, out of which, 6 are professionals, 3 technicians, 7 maintenance and 3 administrative staff.

The technical staff (professionals, technicians) of RDNC Korça are generally University graduates in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Urban Planning, Archaeology and Conservation of artworks. Their level of expertise in conservation and management of cultural heritage is reinforced by regular capacity building activities either in Albania at the Regional Centre for Conservation and Restoration of South East Europe in the Institute of Cultural Monuments, Regional Restoration Camps and Vocational Training: *Skills for Employability of Tomorrow* both organized by CHwB Albania, or abroad. In addition to the training activities, some of the staff of this Directorate have attended and completed studies in Master's degree in Restoration offered by the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning in a curriculum designed in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the Institute of Monuments of Culture.

More over a series of capacity-building workshops and training activities have been organized during 2015-2017, in Tirana and Pogradec, by the advisory bodies of UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM in the framework of the project *“Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid*



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Region” co-financed by the EU and the Government of Albania and coordinated by UNESCO. These capacity-building activities aimed at the promotion of cultural diversity and at strengthening of institutional and professional capacities regarding the harmonization of contemporary interventions in historic settings by taking into account the regional context also. The 2018-publication "Guidelines for the built heritage in the Pogradec Region" is one of the results of this project, aiming at the identification and assessment of traditional materials and techniques of built heritage and historic setting in the Pogradec region. It also aims at awareness raising and introduction of clear guidelines for the use of these traditional techniques in today interventions in these historic setting.

The responsible authorities (central and regional) will use as much as possible, the existing human resources to implement the management plan for the proposed extension. However, the Regional Directorate of National Culture will appoint (within the existing staff) a World Heritage officer with responsibility for ensuring coordination and implementation of cultural heritage programs, including reporting to the Regional Director to be forwarded to the General Director of the Ministry of Culture and the Institute of Cultural Monuments. Other staff members of the RDNC will be involved in activities related to the implementation of the cultural heritage programs and projects established by the World Heritage Supplement to the Management Plan for Pogradec Protected Landscape 2017-2027.

In order to better ensure the management of the proposed area the RDNC in Korça will continue to be assisted by the staff of the Institute of Cultural Monuments (41 staff members out of which 30 professionals) and Archaeological Service Agency (12 staff members).

Other central and local institutions that are involved and continuously dedicated on issues related to cultural heritage management and protection are the Institute of Archaeology, part of Academy for Albanian Studies and the Local Museum of Pogradec.

Financial Resources

Considering culture heritage as an important factor for a sustainable social and economic development, during the last 5 years the Ministry of Culture increased the infrastructure investments to support rehabilitation, conservation, protection, and promotion of culture heritage.



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The state budget yearly allocated to the Regional Directorate of National Culture in Korça by the Ministry of Culture provides funds for restoration, conservation and maintenance of the cultural monuments and historic centres under its jurisdiction.

For the upcoming period the Ministry of Culture will continue to support RDNC Korça in terms of budget allocation for rehabilitation, conservation and protection interventions in the proposed extension.

The proposed extension and buffer zone is included in several major national programs and initiatives such as: the Integrated Rural Development - "100 Villages" Program, a four-year-initiative aiming at providing financial support for economical, infrastructural and sustainable tourism development. This is a joint program of the 4 Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

The program's objectives are:

Improvement of the public infrastructure, economic development through diversification of economic activities, development of social and human capital. The "100 Villages" Program is expected to be implemented in 2018-2020.

The Natural component of the proposed extension

Concerning the nature component in terms of staffing, Regional Agency of Protected Area (RAPA) Korca, which will deal with the day to day management of the WH site of LOR, has a staff of 27 people, of which 6 people are dedicated to the Pogradeci Protected landscape area. In addition from the headquarters staff of NAPA consisting of 27 people, a number of staff will be assigned to overlook the activities related to the management and obligations arising from the potential WH status of the area. Last but not least 5 people from the General Directorate of Environmental Policies Development will contribute a part of their time to the update and revision of policies to ensure the conservation status and obligations in compliance with the WH mixed nature and culture site.

Culture and nature structures in Pogradeci are of LOR and in Korca district have already established a good cooperation, during the IPA UNESCO CBC project, that can be further strengthened and enlarged in the context of a sustainable management and protection as a UNESCO WH site of LOR. The State budget allocates each year an operational fund for NAPA and RAPA, which in case of LOR being listed as WH property will be earmarked for



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this mixed property site, in order to provide funds needed for the proper integrated management of the site.

At the central level the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, in cooperation with NAPA and NEA, will ensure the required staffing and respecting dedicate work time to ensure the supervision of the implementation of the Management Plan for the LOR as well as any revision and update, as appropriate and as stated in the new Law “On Protected Areas”, no. 81/2017, of 4.5.2017.

Cross border cooperation with respective Ministry responsible for the environment matters in the FYROM will also be conducted and facilitated through the various measures and opportunities that arise, such as regional forums and workshops, and in the wider context in the framework of implementation of international conventions in both countries.

Implementation of donors’ projects, being implemented in the LOR such as the current on Prespa Biosphere Reserve (KfW) will create more opportunities for exchange and discussion in the course of several conferences and training workshops, where representatives from FYROM will be invited.

Also the continuation of the CSBL III (GIZ funded) project on the transboundary context for three transboundary lakes, one of which is Ohrid Lake, will continue to support Albania for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and monitoring of water quality indicators in the Albanian part of the Ohrid Lake as well as the Macedonian part of the Lake Ohrid. This created a great opportunity for the extension of the cooperation with regard to the lake monitoring parameters establishment and the discussion of the results in the cross border context.

LIN CHURCH

In the 6th century, the church at cape Lin was (along with Ochrid) one of the most important episcopal centres of the province of *Epirus Nova*.

At the end of 1967, the discovery of several mosaic floors on the hill of the village of Lin, Pogradec, led to the undertaking of trial excavation by the staff of the local museum in Pogradec.

In 1968, systematic excavation took place, aiming at a full investigation of the mosaics and of the monument, under the direction of S. Anamali. The excavation showed that the mosaics pertain to an early Christian church, a smaller version of basilica D at Byllis, Albania. The interior sculpture made of high quality marble is skilfully crafted. Only part of the monument



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was uncovered at that stage, however, and the monument was subject to unprofessional digging during construction work for the protection of the site.

During the recent years, archaeological research of the Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Albanian Studies in the field of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, has focused on the country's major medieval centres, looking at a wider area with the aim of studying city life, and the city's major urban features, i.e., monuments, fortifications, religious buildings, and necropolis. Important contribution has specifically been made in the study of Christian monuments, with investigations taking place within and in the vicinity of urban centres, including rural areas. This has led to deeper knowledge in terms of the phases of construction, function, and period of abandonment.

Investigations by Albanian archaeologists and scholars of the Albanian Institute of Archaeology on Christian religious monuments have aimed at furthering studies on the major monuments in this genre, the remains of which are mainly found outside late antique and medieval urban centres. The Early Christian church on Cape Lin was part of these investigations along with other important sites in the country¹.

The most recent archaeological excavations conducted in 2008 at the top of the hill where the church was built, as well as the field survey of the whole cape resulted in new data on the church complex (the discovery of a reliquary, water cisterns, graves, etc.). Also, a segment of a fortification wall that separated the cape from the rest of the area was discovered, along with a deposit containing a large amount of prehistoric archaeological material (of early and Middle Bronze Age and of early Iron Age), and a small amount of pottery of the Proto-urban and Hellenistic periods. Unlike is the case of other religious centres excavated so far in this area, the pottery is characterized by a variety of shapes that are associated with a number of northern Balkan cultures. The data obtained by this excavation showed that during Late Antiquity the cape of Lin was an important centre of Christian pilgrimage the route to which

¹ L. Përzhita, Archaeological research in the new millennium, International Studies of Albanian Archaeological Studies, Center for Albanian Studies, Institute of Archaeology, Tirana 2014, p. 38. The pilgrimage church of Forty Martyrs, the church on Cape Lin, the Early Christian basilicas at Elbasan and Lezha, the monastery of St Mary at Ballsh, St. Mary at Apollonia, St Nicholas at Mesopotam, the medieval church at Saint Jan (Shijan), and the church of Peshkëpi at Nivicë-Bubar.



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was though the *Via Egnatia*. This explains the reason for which the site has inherited its name from ancient periods².

Mosaics in Ohrid region have been studied since the 1970s (Bitrakova-Grozdanova et al., 1975; R. Kolarik, 1980 and 1982) and these studies undertaken by international scholars have shown analogies in decoration and technique between mosaics in Lychnidos, Studenčišta, Radolišta, Heraclea, Stobi in the Republic of North Macedonia and mosaics of the church of Lin in Albania. Based on this analogies and similarities these studies have forwarded the idea that they were built by the same Atelier operating in Ohrid (Vera Bitrakova-Grozdanova being the first to assume this). These analogies and similarities have been confirmed also by Albanian scholars who have confirmed that the similarities between the Tetraconchal church in Ohrid, basilica of Studenchishta and the church of Lin exist also in the development of the architectural plan of the churches (Meksi, A, 1986 and later Muçaj, S. 2013).

Recent investigations and studies conducted by Macedonian scholars (Tutovski, M; 2012 and 2014) in the Tetraconchal church at the site of Plaošnik in Ohrid have taken up, confirmed and updated the theory on the activity of the atelier of Ohrid based on the shown analogies between the tetraconchal church in Plaošnik with similar mosaics of the church of Lin in Albania and also with the mosaics in Studenčišta, Radolišta, Heraclea, Stobi.

As the conducted studies have concluded³, also the mosaics of the basilica C in Byllis, Albania (one of the main cities of the province of Epirus Nova), were confirmed to be the work of the same artists that created the mosaics in the Tetraconchal church at Plaošnik. In the Justinian period, the "Ohrid workshop", whose production greatly expanded beyond the lake (Bitrakova-Grozdanova 2006, Tutkovski 2012, Tutkovski 2014) intervened in the Protobyzantine churches of Byllis, south of Albania, to make most mosaics (Muçaj-Raynaud 2005, Raynaud 2014). It strongly influenced the local workshops of secondary importance that worked simultaneously.⁴

2 Monuments of the Christian Cult in Albania, Recent archaeological discoveries in Albania, edited by I. Gjipali, L. Përzhita and B. Muka, Botimet Arkeologjike, Qendra e Studimeve Albanologjike, Instituti Arkeologjik, Tiranë 2013, p. 239.

3 M. Tutkovski, Newly discovered mosaics in the tetraconchal church at Plaošnik, PATRIMONIUM.MK, Periodical for cultural heritage - monuments, restoration, museums -Year 5, N 10 / 2012, Skopje 2012, p. 112.

⁴ Raynaud – Islami Le Projet de Corpus des Mosaiques d’Albanie, 2015.



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Mishko Tutovski in 2012 confirmed that: *“The similarities between the mosaics in the Tetraconchal church and those in the basilica D in Byllis, for the first time were identified by V. Bitrakova-Grozdanova who points out that the scene with the deer and the four rivers of Paradise is almost identically executed in the north-west annex of the Tetraconchal church and in the north annex of the basilica D. Later on, after several mosaic pavements have been discovered in few basilicas in Byllis (A, B, C and D), a number of visual motifs, bordures and com- positional matrixes have been recorded as identical to the mosaics in the Ohrid Tetraconchal church. Scholars S. Muçaj and M. Raynaud point to the stylistic features that relate the mosaics from Ohrid and Byllis and based on all findings and analogies they assume that the workshop that operated in Ohrid, later created most of the mosaics in the Byllis churches. The discovery of the human figure and particularly of the mosaic from the northeast annex, confirm the earlier assumptions and allows us to claim with certainty that the mosaics at both Ohrid and Byllis were carried out by the same workshop”.*

As the studies have concluded, the borders of the mosaics’ panels made up of lotus and acanthus leaves are among the favourite motifs used by mosaic artists working at the Tetraconch in Plaoshnik, the basilicas in Radolishta⁵ and Byllis⁶, as well as the church in Lin⁷.

The composition of peacocks flanking a kantharos at Manchevci is almost identical to the catechumenium in the Studenchishta basilica as it is to the south annex of the narthex in the Lin church. The image of the kantharos, with its shape and decoration made up of semi-circular and triangular motifs over the body and neck of the vessel, is done identically to the mosaics in Lin, and correspondingly to the form and decoration of the Studenchishta mosaics. Moreover, the peacocks are depicted in an almost identical manner, notably their bodies and details such as the wings and tails. The chess board pattern in the Manchevci mosaic has virtually identical design to a decorative field in the north aisle at Plaoshnik tetraconch, as to

⁵ M. Тутковски, *Ранохристијанските мозаици од Охрид*, 151-183, fig. 56, 202-210.

⁶ S. Muçaj & M. P. Raynaud, *Les Mosaïques des églises protobyzantines de Byllis (Albanie): Un Atelier*, in: *La Mosaïque Greco - romaine IX*, Roma 2005, fig. 5a, 7.

⁷ S. Anamali & S. Adhami, *Mozaikë të Shqipërisë*, 54, 57.



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two mosaics in Byllis – the south aisle in the Basilica B and the mosaic in the area west of the presbytery of the Basilica D⁸.

The decorative program, the motifs used, as well as the iconographic and stylistic features of the Manchevci mosaic, unambiguously point to the same artistic workshop that created the mosaics in the basilica found at Studenchishta, the Tetraconch at Lin and the Basilica B in Byllis. These mosaic artists belonging to the Ohrid workshop are responsible for creating the lavish mosaic pavements in the Tetraconchal church at Plaoshnik, the basilica in Radolishta, and at a later point some of the mosaics in the city of Byllis in Albania. This workshop is considered to have created the mosaics in many churches in Ohrid and its surrounding area (the tetraconchal churches at Plaoshnik and Lin, the basilicas in Radolishta, Studenchishta and Manchevci), the mosaics in the basilicas A, B, C and D in Byllis, and probably some of the mosaics in Arapaya – Albania, Nerodimlje – Kosovo and Caricin grad - Serbia, which raises the question of the methods and ways in which this workshop functioned. The clear differences in artistic quality recorded at the mosaics of Studenchishta and Lin, which are inferior to those at Radolishta and Byllis support this notion.

Connection between mosaics in Lin and Ohrid is discussed in the work:

BITRAKOVA-GROZDANOVA et al. 1975

Vera Bitrakova-Grozdanova – Dordí Kretevski – Petar Alcev, Старохристијански споменици во Охридско (Les monuments paléochrétiens de la région d’Ohrid), Ohrid (Institut pour la protection des Monuments de la culture, musée national d’Ohrid);

KOLARIK, R. 1980

The floor mosaics of Eastern Illyricum – the northern regions, Actes du congrès international d’archéologie chrétienne (ACIAC) vol. X, Thessalonique 1980, pp. 460-472.

KOLARIK, R. 1982

The floor mosaics of Stobi and their Balcan context, PhD

⁸ M. Tutkovski, The Mosaics in the Early Christian Basilica at the Site of Manchevci in Ohrid, Folia Archaeologica balkanika, III, Skopje 2015, pp. 353 – 356, fig. 22-25.



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Dissertation, Harvard University 1982, pp. 469-474.

MEKSI, A. 1986

Meksi Aleksandër; Aspekte të arkitekturës paleokristiane në Shqipëri /*Aspects de l'architecture paléochrétienne en Albanie*; ILIRIA 1986/1; pp. 293-297

MEKSI A. 1985

Arkitektura paleokristiane në Shqipëri, / Paleochristian architecture in Albania, Monumentet, 2, 1985, pp. 13-44.

MEKSI A. 2004

Arkitektura e kishave në Shqipëri/ The architecture of the churches in Albania, Eugen, Tiranë 2004.

MEKSI A. 2016

Historia e Arkitekturës në Shqipëri/The history of Architecture in Albania, Ministry of Culture, Institute of Cultural Monuments, Tirana 2016, pp. 439-482.

TUTKOVSKI, M. 2012

Miško Tutkovski, “Newly discovered Mosaics in the Tetraconchal Church at Plaošnik” *Patrimonium*: 139-148.

Тутковски, М. 2014

Ранохристијанските мозаици од Охрид, Скопје 2014, pp. 63-68, 172-187, 190-192, 216-219. on English: M. Tutkovski, Early Christian Mosaics From Ohrid, Skopje 2014, pp. 63-68, 172-187, 190-192, 216-219.

RAYNAUD – ISLAMI *in print*

Marie-Patricia Raynaud – Agron Islami, “Ateliers de mosaïstes en Albanie. Sédentaires ou itinérants ?”, Colloque Illyrie Méridionale VI (Tirana, mai 2015).



PILE DWELLING⁹

The underwater archaeological research and study in the Albania part of the Ohrid Lake are an integral part of the national project “*Underwater Archaeological Map of the Albanian Coast*”, an ongoing project started by the Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Albanian Studies in 2005.

Due to reasons related to projects’ prioritization, logistic problems, lack of specialized staff and budgeted, researches has not been of the same intensity during the last 13 years.

In 2013, following the conclusion of the underwater research in the lakeshore of Pogradec city, from a methodological point of view it was decided that these researches should continue to be carry out in the Ohrid Lake in an analytic and systematic way. The research would start from the north part at the border with the Republic of North Macedonia and would continue towards the villages of Lin, Buqezë, Udënisht towards the south.

When for reasons related to visibility, wind intensity or other problems and searches could not be carried out, the area was marked and the research continued in the other area. These researches did not exceed the depth of 8 m.

The prehistoric pile dwelling site Lin 1

This site is located 1.7km west of Lin village, at the foot of the cliffs of Klepisht and Jona, which stretch north of Qafë Thana. From the heights of the cliffs several non-active streams flow down.

The site was identified in 2016. It is located underwater, parallel to the shore, but considering the possibilities of depositing processes of refillable layers over the centuries, it is not excluded that the southern part of the site is located beneath the land surface beyond the coast. Underwater visibility is good when there is no rain and streams are not active. In most of the area, the site has dense vegetation deposited over the centuries. The site lies from the shore of the lake to the depth of 4.5m, its visible length is about 170m parallel to the shore and the largest width, which is located in the center of the site, is about 70m from the shore.

The pile dwellings are positioned on the entire visible surface of the site and have a high density. Their diameter varies from 25cm to 48cm. They are almost completely covered and

⁹ Information provided by the Institute of Archaeology, Academy for Albanian Studies, Official Letter no. 6/1 ref., dated 4.02.2019 (scanned copy attached).



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we have found it difficult to identify them with naked eyes. No studies have been carried out on the type of wood of the pile dwellings, but the general opinion is that it seems that most of them belong to pine tree.

During the investigation, fragments of ceramic vessels of various types were identified, mostly in black color. They were distinguished not only by their shape but also by their thickness, mud composition, and glazing used. Various stone tools were identified too, such as hammerheads of various shapes, bone tools, a large number of different animal bones, mainly located in the center of the site.

During the investigation of the site, several forms of vessels, tools and bones were selected as sample material, which were documented in situ and transferred to the Durrës Archaeological Museum for in-depth analysis and documentation. All the recovered material is superficial and the cultural layers of the site remained untouched.

The C14 analysis of the wood sample from the pile dwelling has made possible the dating (95.4% probability) to 4936 - 4746 B.C. This result of absolute dating, linked with the preliminary chronological assessment of the vessels' typology, locate Lin 1 site at the passing period from Late Neolithic and Eneolithic but does not exclude the possibility of a linkage with the transitional forms of the vessels of the late Middle Neolithic Age.

The prehistoric pile dwelling site Lin 3

The Lin 3 site is located beneath the Raidana pass and south of Staleci plain. It is located about 0.85 km from the southern point of the Lin peninsula and about 0.5km from Buqeza village. On its back above Buqeza, some streams flow down, which are not active all year long and in the southern part of the site Thana's stream flows down.

This site has been known since the early 80's of the last century. In a few paragraphs published, it lacks the overall and detailed documentation. There is also no general information regarding the pile dwellings.

The first investigations of Lin 3 site identified a surface with pile dwellings that formed a rectangle shape plan, with a length of 1600 m parallel to the shore and a width of about 50 m. The distance of this area for the shore was about 70m.

In 2014-2015 the inhabitants of the Buqeza village opened several small-size canals, perpendicular to the shore, in order to use the area for agriculture. During these works several pile dwellings were noticed, as well as dark to black coloured pottery, which was very fragmented. For this reason the identification of the pottery resulted difficult.



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To this purpose, in 2016, a test survey was planned to identify the cultural layers. The positive result of the survey advances some hypotheses, where the most accredited was the re-evaluation of the pile dwelling area, which should be much larger than that previously considered.

These new data, as in the case of Lin 1, has shown that the site lies both underground and underwater. As a preliminary assessment we can say that the surface of the site should be about 170mx 160m. The pile dwellings have a perimeter ranging from 66cm to 114 cm, their diameter ranges up to 47 cm and despite the lack of wood sample analysis, in our opinion, it seems that for the construction of the settlement, pine and chestnut wood have been used.

During the investigation of the site, it was found out that, archaeological material situated on the surface have been removed by local inhabitants, fishermen of the area, and foreigners too. Pottery fragments of various types were identified on the site, mostly dark to black colour and dark to light brown colour. They are distinguished not only by their shape but also by their thickness, mud composition, and glazes used. Various stone tools, such as some types of hammers, and a large number of animal bones were identified as well.

During the investigation of the site were selected some forms of pots, tools and bones, which were documented in situ and transferred to the Durrës Archaeological Museum for in-depth analysis and documentation. All the material is superficial and the site seems to be undisturbed in its cultural layers.

The C14 analysis of the wood sample from the pile dwelling dates (probability 95.4%) the age of the site to between 4590 to 4453 BC. This result of absolute dating, intertwined with the preliminary chronological assessment of the type of vessels, locate the Lin 3 site, as well as Lin 1 site, at the passing period from the Late Neolithic to *Eneolithic* Age.

The prehistoric pile dwelling site Udënisht 1

At the back of the site Udënisht 1, there are two mountain peaks, “Guri i Shpuar” and “Guri i Kardavas”. In the north of the site, “Kroi i Bardhë” and “Kroi i Zi” spreads flow, in the south Torbili river, while four other unnamed streams runs into the entire extent of the area. This environmental context, assisted during the years by the inflows and deposits of geological material on the site surface, has completely covered the site.

The site was discovered in the spring 2017. It has a length of 160m parallel to the shore and a width of about 50m, the distance from the shore is 80m. In the past 2-3 years, archaeological material was identified only on the two extremities where the site lies, north and south.



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Underwater visibility was poor as result of streams' flow, and the inability to easily identify the pile dwellings, created a wrong perception as there were two separate sites. The lakeshore in the area develops in the form of depression, and this factor influenced more in this misguided perception. It has already been confirmed that it is the same site.

The pile dwellings on the entire area of the site are covered. In areas where the surface was tested by hand cleaning, the pile dwellings were of high density and had a diameter of 24 to 36 cm. Throughout the entire surface of the pile dwellings site, fragments of archaeological material were identified. In the north-eastern part of the site a large vessel decorated in the upper part was identified and documented. The decoration of the vessel is in relief and is of horseshoe-shape. The vessel was detached into three pieces and conserved in 60% of it. Inside the vessels burnt wood pieces were found. It represent the largest container identified on the site and was taken as a sample along with other pottery fragments, tools and bones. A sample from the burnt wood remains was taken for C14 analysis.

All the identified material was selected in samples. They were documented in situ and transferred to the Durrës Archaeological Museum for further analysis and documentation. The typological assessment of ceramics dates back to the Late Bronze Age. In the response of December 2017 from the University of Michigan, USA, the C14 analysis confirms this typological dating and establishes (95.4% probability) the date of the site to 1500 to 1311 BC.

Discussion

Identification of two new pile dwellings sites, Lin 1 and Udënisht 1, as well as the in-depth study of Lin 3 site provide new data for the Late Neolithic and Late Bronze Age. The first data from these sites demonstrates the high archaeological potential entirely integrated in the geographic context of the area. The proximity and fast exit at the height of Mokra and Qafa e Thanës is demonstrated by the hunting of wild animals and the exploitation of forests for construction. Proximity to the lake is evidenced by fishing and communication activities, as the contact forms between lakeshore settlements. The location close to small lakeshore plains is evidenced by agricultural activities.

Located in the western part of Ohrid Lake, geographically almost symmetrical with the Korça basin, with the north and eastern shore of Lake Ohrid and beyond as well as with the Prespa Lake, these sites can provide new data on the forms and intensity of the contacts in this part



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of the Balkans and a re-evaluation of *Qafa e Ploçës* as an important contact point with the Korça Basin.

For all three sites, in synthesis:

1. The pile dwelling sites are very well preserved
2. They were not subject to intervention with surveys or excavations
3. The analyses carried out did not damage their integrity
4. The samples taken for study reason has not damaged the cultural layers and is all documented
5. Graphical, photographic, and video files are performed without disturbing the cultural layers
6. The protective zoning of the sites as been completed.

Linkage between these discoveries with the sites located in the Macedonian part of the Lake Ohrid.

Although the study of the sample material obtained from the sites Lin 1, Lin 3 and Udënisht is ongoing, a linkage is shown with the sites located in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The studies conducted by the Macedonian archaeologists and, recently, their cooperation with prof. Albert Hafner in the pile dwelling site of *Plloça* (in the Republic of North Macedonia), a collaboration that is ongoing, links in chronology as well as in the typology of material culture, this site with Lin 1 and Lin 3 sites.

The same parallels can be made on the other site situated in the Republic of North Macedonia, *Ustie na Drin*.

It is also essential to emphasize the importance of the pile dwelling sites discovered in the Albanian lakeshore, as a connecting cultural area, between the Republic of North Macedonia lakeshore and the Maliq basin.

Joint archaeological research with Macedonian and European colleagues on these hypotheses, and more, the exchange of research, conservation and protection experiences of the pile dwelling sites in the Lake Ohrid will create better opportunities for studying them in accordance with rules and instructions conform to UNESCO standards.



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BOUNDARIES

Regarding the question on boundaries: Drilon springs are included in the nominated area, while Tushemisht springs are not included. This is because after extended consultations and discussions in the management planning workshops and after experts' consultation, it resulted that Tushemisht springs are subject to numerous aquaculture activities (legal and illegal). Therefore it was concluded their natural state is not intact for nomination as a mixed property.

BUFFER ZONE

Summary of the main cultural values and attributes of the proposed Extension and Buffer Zone

Albanian part of the lake Ohrid region within its setting.

In particular, the following features: Late roman period archaeological evidence of important routes, routes from Qafë Thana and Ohrid, defensive constructions (castle of Pogradec), natural land formations and strategic views to and from the property.

This attribute expresses values that contribute to OUV, such as:

- Area of activity of atelier of mosaic and painting masters of the Lake Ohrid Region during the Early Christian period.
- This attribute expresses other heritage values, such as:
- Cultural/natural landscape resided in by influential figures of Albanian society;
- Strategic position, close connection with ancient *Lychnidos* (Ohrid), part of important trade and caravan routes (Via Egnatia);

Visual harmony of the landscape of the historic settlement from Lake Ohrid and Qafa Thana.

Lin Peninsula

This site comprises a variety of attributes expressing OUV, such as:

- The sequence of different settlements in different epochs;
- Exceptional example of Early Christian architecture in the Lin peninsula with great similarities in the Lake Ohrid region;



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- Romantic archaeological ruin within a natural/rural landscape;
- Early Christian church of Lin peninsula with its floor mosaics and its surrounding as one of the two remaining examples of this type of architectural building of the Late Antiquity period in Albania.
- This attribute expresses other heritage values, such as:
 - Spectacular setting, significant location and visual impact from the lake Ohrid and qafa Thana of the historic settlement;
 - Traditional house-building techniques;

Oral traditions and legends, such as the legend of Emperor Justinian, by the Illyrian origin, who is believed to have hidden a part of the treasure of the Byzantine Empire, on the shore of Lake Ohrid in the vicinity of the Lin Peninsula, as well as tales about the Church of St. Mitri (Demetrius) and the Church of St. Ilia.

Underwater and undiscovered archaeology (including areas outside the proposed boundaries); unidentified structures and archaeological features

These attributes express other heritage values, but until the heritage is defined, their extent is as yet unknown.

Individual monuments, buildings or structures

These attributes express values that contribute to OUV, such as:

- Prehistoric technology of house building (pile dwelling) in close relation with the Lake (Scientific/archaeological value);
- Influence of regional atelier of mosaic and painting masters during Early Christian period;
- Layout of Early Christian period settlement reflecting the division between important religious and residential function;
- Ensemble of diverse residential buildings coming together to work as a traditional village tied with natural elements of the landscape (Aesthetic/Architectural value).

This attribute expresses other heritage values, such as:

- Examples of vernacular architecture (individual buildings build in ensemble (e.g. the historic centre of Pogradec);



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Architectural planning for ruling elite: construction of 20th century villa of the former dictator in the Drilon Springs Area.

Remains of early evidence of human settlements in the area

These attributes express other heritage values, such as:

Whole archaeological site of the Lin peninsula and coastal landscape including pile dwelling areas, early Christian church of Lin and mosaics, castle of Pogradec (historic/archaeological value).

Interaction of natural and cultural values

Aesthetic, cultural and natural qualities of the landscape, settlements and setting

The spectacular land and waterscapes of the Lake Ohrid region are one of the main reasons why the area is so well loved. The combination of still, smooth waters of the lake and distant views of green forested slopes, bare rock, mountains and sky is made more vivid by the clear, clean air. These special qualities give the area a particularly peaceful and contemplative atmosphere, particularly when looking out across the lake to the far shore.

The gradation of ecosystems and cultural land use from the lake shore, through the cultivated lowlands, the forested slopes and the rocky upland pastures provide a rich and natural setting for the lake. In most cases the settlement structure of the villages is still largely preserved and the residential architecture still retains its traditional layout, features and traditional materials, contributing to the overall ambiance of the landscape and attesting to the local community's long and harmonious relationship with the land.

This exceptional setting is, however vulnerable to excessive lakeshore development, landscape fragmentation, inappropriate restoration, construction on open hillsides and high-rise buildings. On a finer scale, the quality of land and waterscape is diminished by inappropriate shoreline development, solid waste and air and water pollution. Coastal development is breaking the ecological linkages between the lake and its setting; the remaining intact areas between the Lin Peninsula and the border with the Republic of North Macedonia and elsewhere along the coast are of particular importance for conservation and wise management.



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Local customs and traditions

The area has a rich ‘intangible cultural heritage’, which is currently the subject of detailed studies. Key values include:

- The city of Pogradec is known as the “city of poets”, being the native city of the poet Lasgush Poradeci, the painters Anastas Kostandini (TASO), Gjergji Lako, Gentian Zeka, Vangjo Vasili dhe Ilir Dhima, and the photographer Vangjel Cici;
- Performing arts. Several local festivals maintain local traditions of music, performing arts, handicrafts, foods and produce;
- Notable traditional crafts of the area include boat building and decorative wood carving. Traditional stonework and building skills still persist, but few craftspeople remain;
- The area is known for cultivation of various distinctive local crops and for culinary produce such as mountain cheeses, honey and other bee products, wine and liquor, herbs, herbal teas and traditional medicinal plants. Traditional knowledge still persists about the healing properties of local plants.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

Proposed developments in the outskirts of Pogradec are still in the planning phase. However the General Local Plan, states that the Nomination process of LOR on-going, together with the obligations that will arise from the potential inscription of this property in the WH list of UNESCO.

Proposed development¹⁰

Information on the Tushemisht - Drilon development project

The initiative for drafting this project was approved by Decision no. 4 of the NTC (National Territorial Council), dated 26.07.2018. In September 2018, AADF organized an international competition for preparing of the Detailed Plan for the Area of National Importance and the architectural project for the area that includes Drilon and Tushemisht villages. The company

¹⁰ Information provided by AADF (Albanian- American Development Foundation), official letter no. ref 191037, dated 25 February 2019.



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ranked first in this competition is the Portuguese architecture company PROAP, with many experiences in the design and implementation of similar projects. Currently the architecture studio is working to finalize the complete concept of the project idea presented in the contest. Once this concept will be finalized, it will be subject to discussions with the authorities to proceed further.

The first ranked company by the Jury in the September competition foresees some interventions in the area in accordance with the document "Strategic Planning for Destination Development in Tushemisht and Drilon". The project focuses on:

- Drafting a detailed plan for the area of national importance;
- Designing the architectural project for the lake shore;
- Designing the architectural project for the interior parts that includes the interior of the landscape and supporting structures;
- Preparation of auxiliary guidance for the road system and traffic, which is expected to be further elaborated by the ADF (Albanian Development Fund);
- Preparation of the aesthetic protocol for buildings and standards for sustainable construction.

Attached the Terms of Reference of the project, Annex II (in English).



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WORK DONE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPPLEMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PROTECTED AQUATIC-TERRESTRIAL LANDSCAPE OF POGRADECI

Referred to 6 Management Planning workshops, as the essential content of the supplement, in which specific objectives were formulated the following points indicate the progress done:

Programme 1. Protecting and managing Lake Ohrid (pollution control and reduction, fishery management)

1.1 A meeting of RAPA Korçe with GIZ experts of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra project (CSBL) has been conducted on the issue of sewage and waste water situation of Pogradeci and administrative units near the Ohrid lake. Under the CBSL III project a concrete intervention is foreseen, aiming to create an integrated system of sewage and waste water, in order to discharge clean waters in the lake within the standards set by the WFD.

1.2 Memelisht minig site is cleaned up – previously the dumping site of the mine was full with heavy minerals. Cleaning up process has been conducted by the Municipality of Pogradec. – The number of mining activities has been reduced do to the rejection of most requests received, both by RAPA Korçe and Pogradec Municipality.

1.3 Driloni springs and the wetland ecosystem have been improved, because of the clean up works done – the previous reeds have been excavated and moved away from the lake shore.

1.4 There are new developments in solid waste management. We are in the process of the transfer station of solid waste' construction, which will make possible the closing of the existing dump site. Landfill of Maliqi is operational and receives all the waste of Pogradeci. A campagne for integrated solid waste management (separated collection of recyclable waste in source) is developed. The waste management awareness campaign, was marked by various community activities as well as the cleaning up of illegal dumpsite along the Ohrid lakeshore. The final activity of this campaign focuses on reaching out to a wider audience by presenting a promotional short video and a 30-second animation clip. The focus of the two videos is to sensitize the inhabitants of the Pogradec region about the values, beauty and the threat of waste to the lake, with aim to inspire and motivate all generations to better manage their waste by reducing, reusing and recycling it.



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In order to ensure local ownership and sustainability, the entire waste campaign was designed and implemented in close partnership with the Municipality of Pogradec, and in consultation with the local NGOs 'Une, Gruaja' and the sustainable tourism operator Explore Pogradec.

1.6 Monitoring in the lake. The winter bird census of this year shows the best result of the last five years (more than 15000 individual were surveyed). This is a very good indicator pointing out the good measures with regard to the nature. Up to now 11 species and 1 (one) habitat are being monitored.

Programme 3. Integrating local development with World Heritage values

3.1 Illegal constructions are not being allowed. The lakeshore of Pogradec, from Lini to border is untouched by illegal constructions.

3.3 The recent constructed road from Lini to Pogradec, has high standards (more safety, more clean air, more comfortable).

Programme 4. Enabling public enjoyment of World Heritage

4.2 We have establishing 7 new dedicated biking trails and 3 new hiking trails in the area. We are in the preparation process of designing roadmaps/guidance for nature and culture attractions to be visited.

Programme 5. World Heritage Buffer Zone management (ecosystems, land use and livelihoods).

5.1 Forest protection is increasing. Thermo-isolation is now a new standard required for new constructions. An awareness campaign on reduction of energy loss is done focused on thermos-isolation, as an alternative to reduce the cut of the forests to be used as firewood, helping also towards the mitigation towards climate change.

5.2 There is a reduction of livestock activities, there is no more overgrazing, the recent result is unused pastures.

Programme 6. Implementing management plans for the area



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6.1 Collaboration between RAPA and Pogradeci Municipality is established and functional. Every development project related with activities in the forest fund, such as quarries, mining, cultivation of medicinal plants, etc., that is developing in Lake Ohrid Area, are approved in consent both by RAPA and by Municipality.

6.3 Mostly Agroforestry related activities are allowed according to the related legal framework.

6.5 During the whole process of the preparation of the General Local Management Plan, all stakeholders involved have insisted to take into consideration and to respected the proposed status as World Heritage Property of the lake Ohrid.

Also to be mentioned that the same consideration World Heritage Property of the lake Ohrid is being requested to Albanian American Development Fund when designing development projects.

ANNEX 1 _DESIGN BRIEF

WP D

**Waterscape Park Design for the Sustainable Tourism
Development of Tushemisht and Drilon**

1 INFORMATION AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The competition seeks an urban and architectural design for the Waterscape Park Design (WPD) of Drilon –Tushemisht, clearly marked by an approach that respects the natural and cultural value of the project area. The Master plan must fully confront the theme of integrating in one unitary design with a coherent balance of nature and architecture: new facilities, public spaces and infrastructures with existing landscape and waterscape environment by:

- Developing a vision for the area that will promote Tushemisht - Drilon as one of the most beautiful areas in the country that offers an all-year round tourism.
- Promote the coexistence between nature and human activities through a sensitive architecture and design approach.
- Promoting services and activities, leisure, sports, culture and tradition by using natural and water resources while respecting in the same time sustainability principles in the presence of an area with particular environmental and natural heritage protection status recognized by law.
- Incorporating the principles of environmentally sustainable design in facility project development.
- Increasing touristic stay in the area by developing a strategy with the goal of developing an all- year round tourism.
- Developing policies and regulations which will set constructions standards, regulate aesthetic aspects such as the use of materials and colors in order to integrate new buildings without harming the natural environment as well as to improve and maintain the place aesthetics.
- Developing a marketing brand that should reflect the representative elements of the area and promote its values through a clear image of the destination and type of tourism.

2 PROJECT AREA

The competition site is situated in the south - east of Pogradec Municipality, located only 5 km away from Pogradec city center and 3 km from Macedonian Border, bordered in north by Ohrid Lake. It consist of Drilon and Tushemisht villages, which are widely know as favorite touristic destinations.

Map 1_ Context (scale 1: 500.000)

Intervention area is identified in map 2_ Regional context (scale 1: 500.000) with details of the hypothetical* boundary of the Master plan and existing tourist attractions, buildings and infrastructures.

Map 2_Regional Context (scale 1: 40.000)

The area is currently accessible only by the main road and local pedestrian parks paths. Ohrid Lake, Drilon Watershed and Wetlands are part of a unique landscape with natural and cultural values.

The map below shows, again, the boundary of the Master plan (WPD) and the location of required interventions grouped in three macro categories:

A -Lake Waterfront design

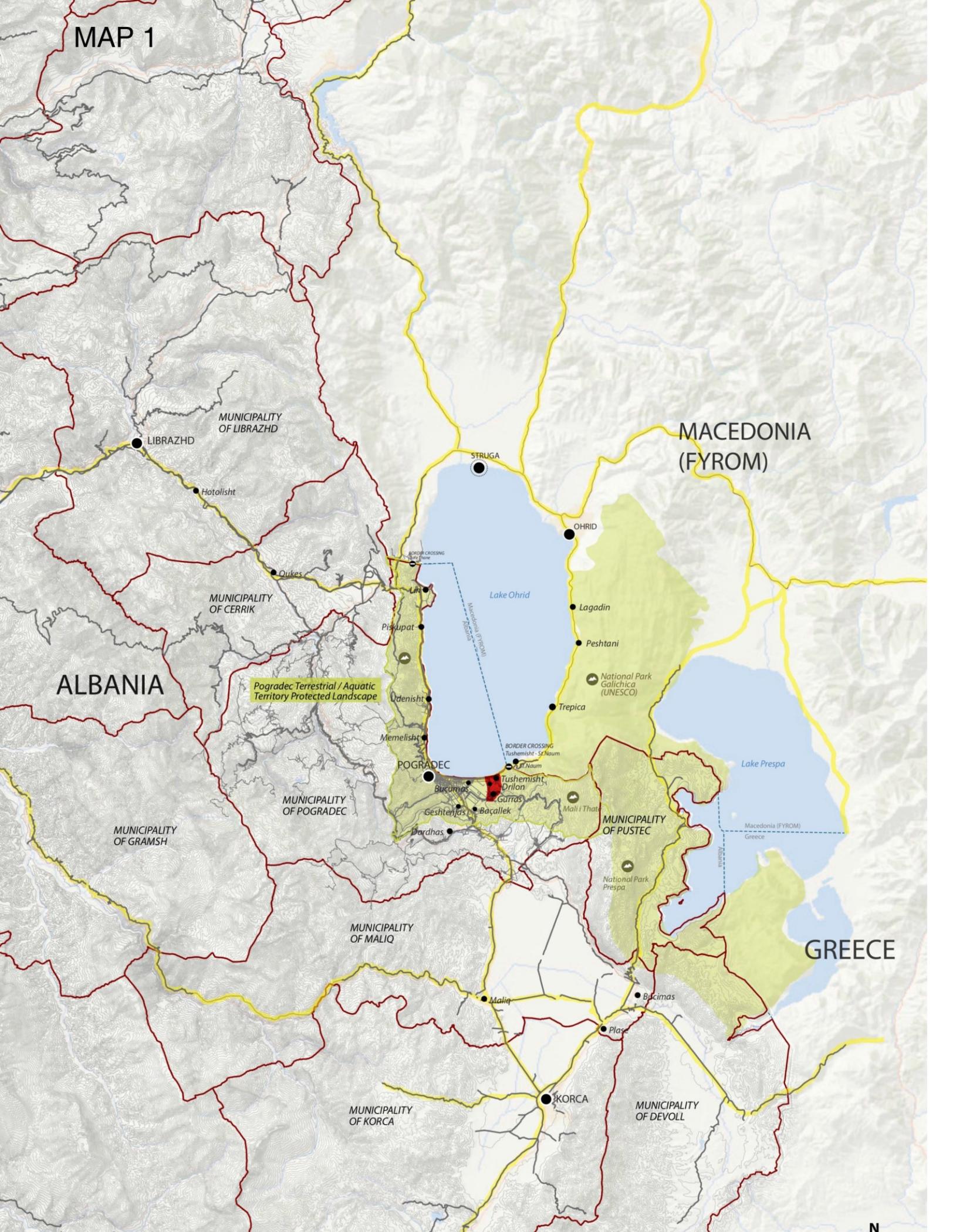
B -Park and facilities design

C -Road and infrastructure system

Map 3_Competition site (scale 1:15.000)

*If the competitors believe that the area should include additional complementary space, they are free to include it in the proposition showing the previous and the new boundary in drawings. However, this should be done without losing the focus from the main area.

MAP 1



MAP 1

MACEDONIA (FYROM)

ALBANIA

GREECE

MUNICIPALITY OF LIBRAZH D

MUNICIPALITY OF CERRIK

MUNICIPALITY OF GRAMSH

MUNICIPALITY OF POGRADEC

MUNICIPALITY OF MALIQ

MUNICIPALITY OF KORCA

MUNICIPALITY OF PUSTEC

MUNICIPALITY OF DEVOLL

Pogradec Terrestrial / Aquatic Territory Protected Landscape

Lake Ohrid

Lake Prespa

STRUGA

OHRID

Lagadin

Peshtani

Trepica

POGRADEC

BORDER CROSSING Tushemisht - St Naum

Mali i Thati

Bucimas

Geshterjas

Bacallek

Dardhas

National Park Prespa

National Park Galichica (UNESCO)

Macedonia (FYROM) Greece

BORDER CROSSING Lina Dena

Lina

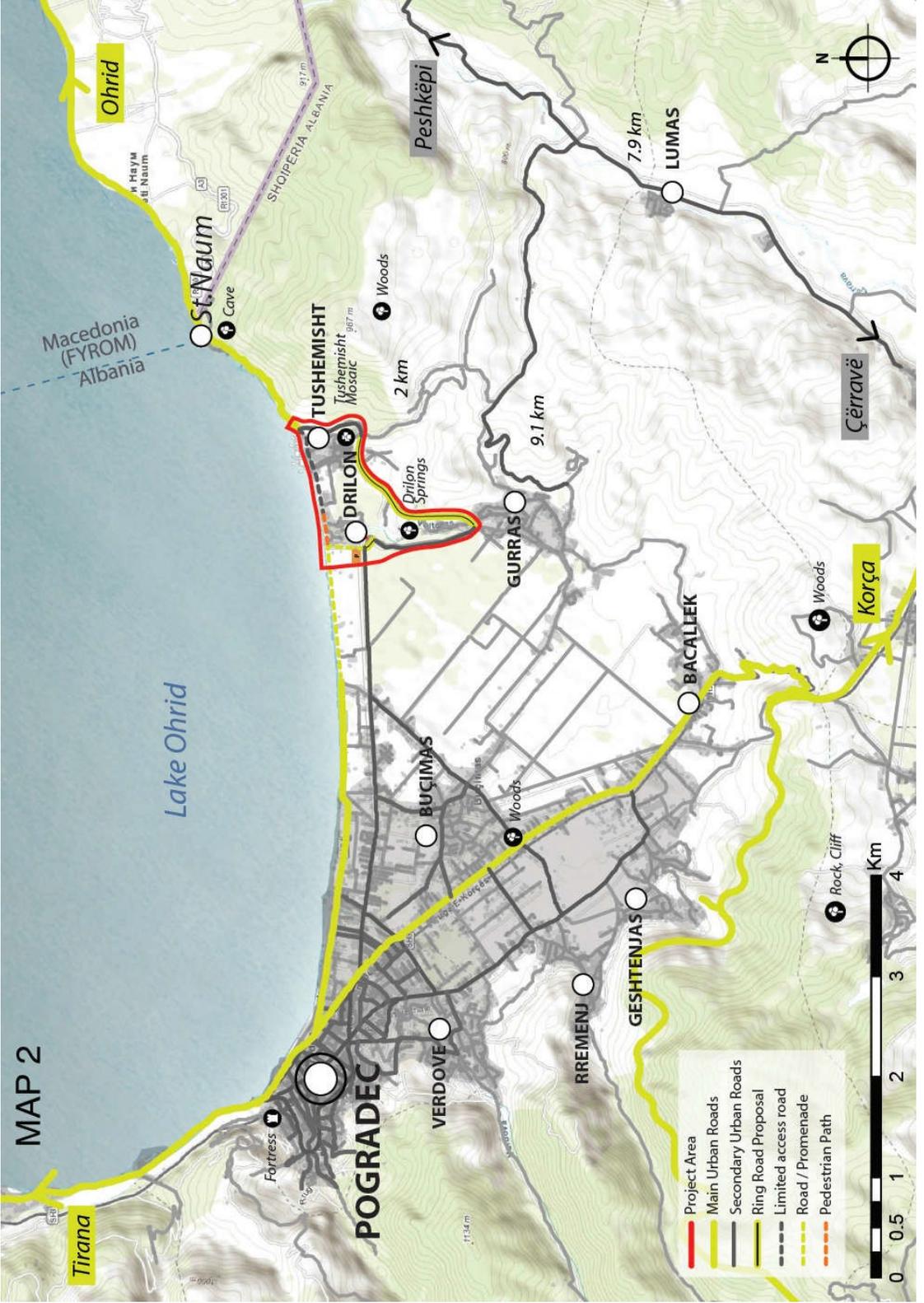
Piskopat

Udenisht

Memelisht

Udenisht

MAP 2



[WPD]

WATERSCAPE PARK DESIGN OF DRILON & TUSHEMISHT

Border Crossing
Tushemisht - St.Naum

Lake Ohrid

Ohrid

A LAKE WATERFRONT DESIGN

B PARK & FACILITIES DESIGN

C ROAD & INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

- Main Regional access road
- Local access road
- Main Urban Roads
- Ring Road Proposal
- - - Limited access road
- Road / Promenade
- - - Pedestrian Path
- - - Hiking / Cycling Network

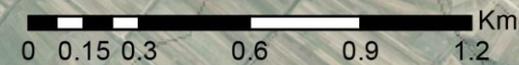
PROJECT AREA

• Tushemisht

• Drilon

• Gurras

◁ Pogradec



3 PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The scope of the Competition is to develop the Master Plan (in Albanian context referred as Detailed Plan for the National Importance Area) and the Design Projects for the Waterscape Park Design [WPD] of Drilon –Tushemisht, according the following three specific tasks:

3.1 WATERSCAPE PARK DESIGN [WPD] OF DRILON & TUSHEMISHT:

- A - Lake Waterfront design
- B - Park and facilities design
- C - Mobility and circulation system

3.2 CONCEPT for TOURISM MARKETING & BRANDING

3.3 GUIDELINES for POLICIES & REGULATIONS / MANUALS

Competitors are encouraged to propose different assets of Design Projects ensuring the water and land preservation, adopting ecology parameters in respect of the local environment with the scope of providing facilities and infrastructures for a long – term sustainable tourism development of Tushemisht & Drilon areas.

Specification and choice of materials for required interventions must be integrated within the natural environment in respect of the local values and the ecology system with low impact.

Facility design projects should incorporate Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles according with regulation.

In order that all the project interventions and integration of new buildings to be implemented without harming the natural and cultural environment, it is required to design Policies & Regulation Manuals and also the design of a marketing brand that unifies all the interventions in the area.

Below is given a description of the Design Projects, suggesting the type of intervention, the scale and, when required, the suitable location.

Additional information will be given during the site visit & workshop with the delivery of the full Competition Documents and map dwg files.

3.1 WATERSCAPE PARK DESIGN [WPD] OF DRILON & TUSHEMISHT

A -Lake waterfront design

B -Park and facilities design

C -Road and infrastructure system

A Lake waterfront design

One of the key elements in order to revitalize the lakeshore of Tushemisht – Drilon area is the waterfront requalification. Conceiving it as a multi-purpose public open space corridor (1.3 km long), it should offer connections to Tushemisht village and Drilon Park and at the same time ample opportunities for seating, walking, swimming, sport and leisure activities.

The main targets of the development are to improve public access to Lake Ohrid waterfront and to increase the connectivity of the lake to the two centers, reinforcing the vitality of commercial opportunities (including tourism related activities/services with access to the lake) and touristic resource in respect of natural environment, create an attractive natural base urban design for tourists.

The following points give the main highlights of the required interventions to be implemented in the lake waterfront design.

A.1 Promenade Design

It is required that the design of the waterfront should be based on ecological approach for design solutions and create a relationship with water and ground activities through a range of different design interventions and facilities such us:

Cycling & pedestrian path: design cycling and pedestrian path thus to connect the overall intervention of Drilon - Tushemisht with a continuous path.

Cycling & pedestrian bridge: design a new bridge, replacing the existing one, located between the lake and Drilon springs, in order to allow the passage of small boats into the lake.

Public areas: design public spaces equipped with urban furniture for leisure and children playground.

Sport Facilities: design public spaces equipped for Cardio-Fitness, sport fields, winter activities (e.g. installation of a removable ice skating rink located in between Drilon Park and hotels) etc.

Urban Furniture: design seating elements, including benches, ramps, stairs, boardwalks, view points to the lake, square/meeting area, signage, waste/recycling area, bins, bicycle racks, etc.

Temporary/light Building Facilities: design, for public use, of bar & public services, tourist info point, bike sharing, shading system, etc.

Lighting design: provide lighting design along the promenade and public spaces (see point C).

A.2 Waterfront Facilities

Touristic pier: it is a significant component of a shoreline, it should be attractive for boat tourists, interested in sportive fishing or just loving navigation and spending time on their marine vehicle.

Design a touristic pier and a service area around 3.000-3.500 sqm, equipped with small warehouses (2-3 about 100-200 sqm), parking lot and road accessibility delimited by railing.

Provide the proper type of technology for docks in the specific Tushemisht-Drilon case.

Boat trip service: it is integrated with the pier project, to improve touristic attraction and give a new role to the lake (transport service), by linking the area with Pogradec and with the possibility to extend to Lin, Macedonia, etc. The touristic pier should support the tools/ equipment needed for such service.

Beach facilities: design 2-3 bathing facilities (equipped beaches) to improve the attraction of tourists and the services provided to them. The idea could be to design in detail pilot projects to improve the quality of the touristic services along the waterfront. This should be designed in a way that can be replicated along the lake shoreline.

Tourist activities in Drilon waters: activate a number of “slow” activities to be carried out in the watershed springs of the park in order to improve the tourist attraction of Drilon Park. The important aspect is that these activities should not be harmful to flora and fauna of Drilon Park and at the same time interesting for tourist leisure.

The main recommendation is to introduce water sports not polluting/harmful for local environment (no water skiing or sports that must use motor vehicles). The possible services recommend could be:

- Canoeing, kayaking or rowing.
- Wakeboard, windsurfing or sup-diving.

A.3 Existing Buildings

Buildings located in front of the lakeside: provide a solution for a coordinated approach of integration / re-use / demolition in order to allow public accessibility and use of the lakefront.

The existing Hotels/Residential Buildings on the first line of the lake waterfront: provide a proposal of façade restyling or any other intervention to minimize the impact within the natural environment.

A.4 Waterspring flows into the lake

On the left part of the existing bridge, there are two waterspring flows of clean water that follow into the lake from an upper level producing foam that could be seen as a pollution problem. It is requested to provide an esthetic mitigation to avoid this inconvenient. (see Annex 3, photo 3)

Note:

-The movement solutions inside the area should be complemented with intramodality solutions for the whole area, to indicate when can vehicles, bikes, and other means of transports be used inside the area (traffic management plan). The movement of vehicles into the area should be minimized to the greatest possible. Parking areas as explained in section c “Road and Infrastructure System” below should be made available to accommodate the vehicles of the tourists and local residents.

-Opportunity to increase the “Lake front” facilities and activities must be foreseen.

B Park and facilities design

Drilon is one of the most favorite destination for tourists because of the presence of high- value natural environment with its springs, wetlands and reeds, local people which are very hospitable, but the lack of services and the activities make the tourists and visitors to spend a short time in the area.

Therefore, a number of interventions are required in order to give the park greater competitiveness towards other territories with a similar tourist potential and greater attractiveness for potential tourists.

The following points give the main highlights of the required interventions to be implemented in the Park and facilities design.

B.1 Landscape and waterscape design projects

Landscape: provide expansion and rehabilitation of the wetland areas and increase the possibility of creating a bird watching and wildlife observation recreation site as part of the hiking route, which would continue in the inner part of the territory in continuity with other existing path to Pogradec and to Macedonia National Park. This site should be rehabilitated as per its status “Protected Landscape” and the former extent and hydrology of the water channels and wetland area should be re-established as the primary magnet for culture and nature tourism in the zone.

Propose how will the landscape and waterscape area between lands and channels be visually and functionally attractive for tourists and viable in terms of its opportunities to generate some income for the local community (e.g. planting of certain flowers, planting of medicinal and aromatic plants, etc.)

Design project of the channel border’s protection: propose appropriate durable technology and materials that must be integrated in the natural environment. The proposal may vary in different locations, in type, shape, way of usage, etc. Please see Annex 3 for photos of existing border.

Cycling & pedestrian path: design cycling and pedestrian path next to the water channels and linked to the other paths of the overall intervention; provide appropriate solution, integrated with the natural environment, to protect the cycling and pedestrian path foreseeing the flooding given by different seasonal water levels; design public open area along the cycle and pedestrian path, equipped with urban furniture for leisure, sport, resting, children playground, etc.

Cycling & pedestrian bridge: design the cycle-pedestrian bridge to short cut the distance, connecting the sides of the park.

Urban Furniture: design seating elements, including benches, ramps, stairs, boardwalks, view points to the park, signage, waste/recycling area, bins, bicycle racks, etc.

Lighting design: provide lighting design for the park. (see point C)

Remediation of water resources & Channel ring between Tushemisht and Drilon: propose a technical action plan to clean the existing channel riversides (Drilon Springs Watershed) from wild vegetation and human waste and in addition, for the main ones, homogeneously widen the width to at least 8-10 m in order to make them navigable.

One hypothesis is widening two existing channels (very narrow at the moment) in order to create a ring that exits from Drilon and comes back around 120 m southbound. The intention is to make to offer some boat tours in Drilon Watershed.

Competitors are invited to evaluate this possibility and to provide a technical solution.

All the channels have to be accessible providing design of wooden bridges that will connect the hiking/pedestrian/cycle network.

Linked to the idea of realizing a navigable ring next to Drilon watershed, the proposal is to arrange the old channel that connects the park to the little town of Gurras, which is currently completely abandoned and not navigable, creating a new path for tourist navigation.

B.2 Building facilities

Tourist Info Center: design a new building as a landmark for the WPD of Drilon- Tushemisht and as catalyst point of reference for tourists.

The project has to provide a flexible space for tourists and an office structure to accommodate a small team that will co-administer/govern the area.

The Tourist Info Center should provide information (such as trail maps, camp sites, staff contact, restrooms, area's attractions, lodgings and other items relevant to tourism) and in-depth educational exhibits and digital displays (for example, about natural or cultural history).

The Design has to be integrated in the natural environment; the building could be located on the main road of the coastline, near the entrance of Drilon Park, to be easily accessible and visible for each type of tourist, near the main attraction points: in Drilon Park, in Tushemisht and also in cycling, hiking network.

Suggested surface area: approx. 150-200 sqm

Lake museum: design according to the local values of the context such as: lakes/park ecosystems (flora, fauna), human activities (fishing etc.) and anthropic system (historical elements and traditions).

The target audience will be: tourists, local people and schools with didactic purpose.

Museum localization in the area could be in an existing but currently unused building, to ensure a sustainable impact of the idea/project, to re-use and re-qualify abandoned structures thus to give a new life to the place.

Hypothesis 1: re-use of an existing buildings in Drilon area.

Hypothesis 2: new building with suggested surface area, approx. 400-500 sqm.

The touristic information center and the lake museum can be integrated/designed into one building.

Bird watching: design of bird watching network, 3 to 7 elements/locations, strategically located in an area that is easy to find and accessible to all visitors, including disables, by offering comfortable, accessible seating binoculars and/or spotting scope – along with interpretive materials to assist children and beginning birders to obtain good views of the birds visiting the feeding stations and surrounding plantings.

Information points: Linked with the Tourists Information Center, an info point network should be proposed and designed through the territory. The idea of info-point could be improved through the creation of “structured points”, not simple totems. Proposed installation of several info point facilities (around 6-10) throughout the territory, near the main attraction points. E.g. Drilon Springs, Tushemisht Village, cycle network, hiking path, small pier, waterfront.

Local products & artisan market: design a new market, indoor or outdoor, where local inhabitants promote the culture and tradition of their villages by selling and promoting local products such as veggies, homemade products such as wine, trahana, petka, oshafka, etc. Women in Drilon & Tushemisht village are known for artisan work, they make closes, traditional blankets and puppets but they sell them on the street randomly, as there is no market to sell and promote their work.

This area is suggested in or near Tushemisht village.

B.3 Public open space facilities

Children playgrounds and landscape areas for leisure and sports: design open air public areas equipped for sport, leisure activities and children playgrounds to ensure a net of activities that revitalize the territory through development of small-scale attraction points diffused in the park.

Design of such facilities should consider an economic viable and environmentally sustainable way to increase the recreational opportunities and must be integrated with the natural environment thus to have a low impact on the territory by using an ecological approach.

Open air activity area: design a public open space equipped with services and dedicated to open air activities such as concerts, exhibitions, open lectures, community gathering, etc. The set up should include a separate power line and access to potable water with separate meters to be made available to event companies to organize events. In addition all elements must be foreseen like structures for separation, safety equipment's, etc.

Bike sharing facility: design bike sharing for 20-30 bikes; suggested location is next to the info point center. Opportunity for extension must be foreseen.

Lighting design: provide lighting design in public spaces (see point C).

Note:

-Opportunity to increase the facility must be foreseen.

B.4 Existing Buildings

Informal Buildings located inside the Drilon Park: provide a solution for a coordinated approach of integration / re-use / demolition in order to allow public accessibility and use of the park.

Buildings located by the lake shore: provide a solution for a coordinated approach of integration / re-use / demolition in order to allow public accessibility and best use of the lakeshore.

Existing Buildings in Tushemisht village: provide a proposal of façade restyling or any other intervention to obtain a coordinated image for the urban renewal of the village. Provide a proposal of urban furnishing of the existing structures, including regulation of space occupancy for touristic use (e.g. outdoor space that can be occupied by bars and restaurants with outdoor table and chairs, their suggested shapes, style, etc.). The proposition must include the buildings and public spaces.

* Note: Should the design suggest of demolition of private buildings, due to increase of common/public benefits, the legal requirement for expropriation shall be followed.

Tourist activities in Drilon waters: provide “Slow” activities in the watershed of the park such as canoeing or rowing, not harmful to fauna and flora. The route could start right at the entrance of Drilon Park and be distributed in all available and navigable waters. It will be necessary to realize a small deposit for the boats and a small harbor to sail.

C MOBILITY AND CIRCULATION SYSTEM

The infrastructure system in the area is not very good regarding to the road conditions and the accessibility it offers for the locals and tourists. Current accessibility is mainly by car: the area is accessible thanks to two parallel roads from Pogradec, a road from Gurras, and one from Macedonian border. There is a lack of parking lots organized and clearly delimited, so cars are parked all along the coastal road, especially during the summer period, causing troubles to the circulations and harm to pedestrians and cyclists, due to the absence of pedestrian and cyclist paths.

The Municipality aims to reduce the car access to the lake area between Pogradec and Drilon. As the project wishes to create a vehicle free zone within the project area to give more space to tourists activities, it also aims to create bypass road around the area in order to concentrate car fluxes on the backside of Tushemisht and Drilon.

It's important to guarantee a very good infrastructure system in order to improve touristic attraction and residential condition of inhabitants.

The vehicular / cycling / golf cards / pedestrian movement solutions proposed should be complemented with intramodality solutions for the whole area, to indicate when can vehicles, bikes, and other means of transports be used.

The following points give the main highlights of the required interventions to be implemented in road and infrastructure system project.

New mobility and circulation system: design a "Master Development Plan Layout", including vehicle, cycle and pedestrian traffic diagram that will provide accessibility to the area for locals and tourists, connected with the regional infrastructure system. This should be complemented by a traffic management plan.

The waterfront area will allow only pedestrian use of the road / promenade. Vehicles will be allowed only for supporting services to the businesses (e.g. only at a certain schedule) located in the main road and also for emergency services such as firefighting, ambulance, etc.

This requires the need of an alternative circulation system for vehicles: the bypass road to be used by vehicles will go around the area, and in the same time may serve as a border/buffer to protect the park. The bypass road trace is defined by Albanian National Agency for Territorial Planning. The project for this road is to be prepared by a local studio commissioned by Albanian Development Foundation. It is expected that the project is available by mid June.

As part of this competition/assignment an evaluation/review of the bypass road project is required in order to capture all elements and facilities the project area requires and to fully align with the vision and development of the area.

Note:

- Proposals should be done in accordance with the General Local Plan proposed infrastructure system and the vision for developing the area.

Bus stop system: design a bus stop included in the new infrastructure system that can be replicated in numbers along the road where requested.

Cycling & pedestrian path: provide cycle lane aside the main roads. The general idea is to use existing routes that cross the territory, with the implementation of some little interventions, such as wood fence, signage etc.

Provide a cycle network, accessible also by pedestrian, in order to create a safe and easy, but at the same time interesting service that can attract a segment of tourists interested in nature and sport, beyond the water and lake aspect. It is expected that small pedestrian bridges be used in various locations.

The proposed design of cycle system has to connect all intervention areas in a continuous

network.

Hiking & horse routes: Create a trail system to link Drilon with Tushemisht, when possible by using existing rural path, extend the hiking network towards the inland rural area, towards the border with Macedonia and towards the city of Pogradec.

Pipeline infrastructures system: provide an action plan to convert the actual services lines into an underground pipeline infrastructural system in order to increase the capacity because of the growth of population and the numbers of tourist.

Lighting design: provide lighting design for all typology of public space by using low energy consumption technologies, in respect of the protected status of the place and taking care of these impacts on light pollution. The system has to provide a high level of personal safety along the cycling and pedestrian routs.

Public Security Cameras: security camera spots must be identifying in addition to lighting in the main areas as well as main entering and exit locations, and important sites such as parking area.

Parking spaces: Parking lots should serve for tourist cars and buses and are recommended to be located near one or more access points, far from the lakeshore, the promenade and outside the borders of the protected areas, in order to ensure the protection of habitats and fauna, and to make the place more pleasant. The parking spaces should be big enough to accommodate tourists' vehicles and local residents' vehicles. Should the tourists number increase, there should be opportunities identified in advance and added in the design to extend the public spaces or build new ones. More than one public spaces can be considered.

3.2 CONCEPT for TOURISM MARKETING & BRANDING

The Concept for Tourism Marketing and Branding has to provide a coordinated image approach for all interventions thus to reflect the representative elements of the area and promote its values through a clear image of the destination and type of tourism.

In a place of touristic value, signage also plays a key role in the way finding of visitors through a set of coordinated signals that are designed to guide tourists by helping to identify access, exits, paths, attractions and services.

In this sense, branding and marketing should be reflected in the below mentioned interventions:

- Logo design of WPD of Drilon & Tushemisht
- Advertise welcome sign/image/board
- Colors use palette
- Blueprint guide with attraction points and activities
- A coordinated language of design for the urban furniture and services provided in the area
- Signs and information tables branded under the logo of WDP within cycle, pedestrian, hiking, horse paths with the location of attractions and services of the area.

3.3 GUIDELINES for POLICIES & REGULATIONS / MANUALS

Protocol for building aesthetics

A key aspect when facing the improvement of an area about its tourism enhancement is surely the identity from the aesthetic point of view. Tourist attraction is also based on these aspects and therefore should not be left in background. Consequently, the types of buildings of the area, also the ones in the process of being refurbished, and the new ones under construction, should follow a unique approach, according to a well-defined address line.

That said, a proposal of instrument to regulate aesthetics could be a new-shared protocol (regional or local) to regulate, in existing and/or new buildings, the use of architectural typology, technology, components, materials and colors, through a color plan by using a palette system to improve and maintain the place aesthetics.

This Protocol for building aesthetics will improve the quality of touristic offers and develop the identity of the place based on cultural and historical values.

The building aesthetics should be visually proposed/displayed for all buildings. The intention is to make it obligatory for all building owners, through a regulatory and/or incentive mechanism by the government authorities.

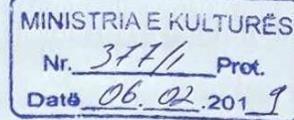
Protocol for sustainable construction standards - new building and accommodations

The forecast of the increase in touristic demand will naturally lead private investors to check for available areas for the construction of new accommodation facilities. In order to integrate new building without harming the natural environment as well as the aesthetic of the area, appropriate locations and construction standards need to be suggested. That's why a shared protocol on regional basis is necessary, in order to propose to builders a series of recommendations aimed at the sustainability of new buildings and services, regarding standards, materials, practices and procedures, etc.

Given the features of the town and the proximity of the protected Drilon Park, the suggestion is to develop a low-density and high-quality accommodation structures, like ecologies and apartments integrated in the natural spaces, destined to attract a wealthier and tourism, sensible to beauty and sustainability.

Recommendations specified in the protocols should be taken into account when developing and planning sustainable accommodations with clear indication where new constructions are not allowed.

Note: Additional details and specific maps will be given to the short list Participants, in the 2nd phase, during the site visit & the workshop.



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISE

AKADEMIA E STUDIMEVE ALBANOLOGJIKE

INSTITUTI I ARKEOLOGJISË

Nr. 06/1 Prot.

Tiranë, më 04/02/2019

Lënda: Informacion mbi kërkimet arkeologjike nënujore në Liqenin e Ohrit.

Drejtuar: Znj. Risena Xhaja, Sekretar i Përgjithshëm

Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Politikave dhe Zhvillimit të Kulturës

Drejtoria e Programeve të Zhvillimit të Kulturës

E nderuar Znj. Xhaja,

Në përgjigje të shkresës suaj me Nr. 377. Prot dhe datë 17.01.2019 ju bëjmë me dije se studimet dhe kërkimet arkeologjike nënujore në Liqenin e Ohrit, përmbledhin gjithë pjesën breg-liqenore të Republikës së Shqipërisë. Ato janë pjesë integrale e Projektit Kombëtar shumëvjeçar Harta Arkeologjike Nënujore e Bregdetit Shqiptar, të cilin Instituti i Arkeologjisë i Akademisë së Studimeve Albanologjike e ka filluar nga viti 2005 dhe e ka në vazhdim.

Kërkimet arkeologjike nënujore sistematike në liqenin e Ohrit, Instituti i Arkeologjisë (IA) i ka filluar që nga viti 2005. Për probleme prioriteti të projekteve të veçanta të cilat ishin të integruara në "Hartën Arkeologjike Nënujore të Bregdetit Shqiptar", probleme logjistike, personeli të specializuar dhe buxheti, intensiteti i këtyre kërkimeve nuk ka qënë linear dhe njësoj i intensifikuar në këto 13 vjet.

Në vitin 2013, pas përmbylljes së kërkimeve nënujore në bregun e qytetit të Pogradecit, metodologjikisht u vendos që këto kërkime, të vazhdonin të zhvilloheshin në liqenin e Ohrit në mënyrë analitike e sistematike, duke filluar nga veriu, në kufi me FYROM dhe të vazhdonin drejt fshatrave Lin, Buqezë, Udënisht në drejtim të jugut. Kur për arsye shikueshmërie, intesitetit të erës jo të favorëshme e problemeve të tjera nuk mund të punohej, zona shënohej dhe kalohej në zonën në vazhdim. Gjatë këtyre kërkimeve nuk është kaluar thellësia mbi 8 metra.

Siti palafit prehistorik Lin 1.

Ky sit ndodhet 1.7 km në perëndim të fshatit Lin, është i pozicionuar në rrëzë të faqeve të Klepishit dhe të Jonës, të cilat shtrihen në veri të Qafës së Thanës. Nga lartësitë e faqeve zbrasin disa përrenj, të cilët nuk janë aktivë gjithë vitin.

Siti u identifikua në vitin 2016. Ai ndodhet nënujë, paralel me bregun, por duke marrë në konsideratë mundësinë e proceseve depozituese të shtresave mbushëse në shekuj, nuk përjashtohet mundësia, që pjesa jugore e sitit palafit të ndodhet edhe nën sipërfaqen tokësore përtej bregut. Shikueshmëria nënujë është e mirë kur nuk ka rreshje dhe përrenjtë nuk janë aktivë. Në pjesën më të madhe të sipërfaqes, siti ka një vegjetacion të dendur dhe të depozituar në shekuj. Ai zhillohet nga bregu deri në thellësinë 4.5 m, gjatësia e dukshme e tij

është rreth 170 m paralel me bregun dhe gjerësia më e madhe, ecila ndodhet në qendër të sitit, është rreth 70 m nga vija e bregut.

Palafitet janë të pozicionuara në gjithë sipërfaqen e dukshme të sitit dhe kanë një dendësi të madhe, diametri i tyre lëviz nga 25 cm deri në 48 cm. Ato janë thuajse të mbuluara tërësisht dhe është shumë i vështirë identifikimi i tyre me sy të lirë. Nuk janë kryer akoma studime mbi llojin e drurit të palafiteve, por në nivel opinionit, duket që pjesa më e madhe e tyre i përket llojit të pishës.

Gjatë hetimit të sitit, u identifikuan pjesë enësh qeramike të llojeve të ndryshme, kryesisht me ngjyrë të errët në të zezë. Ato veçoheshin jo vetëm nga forma por dhe nga trashësia e tyre, përbërja e baltës dhe zgrasantët e përdorur.

U identifikuan gjithashtu vegla të ndryshme pune prej guri, si çekiç të disa lloj formave, vegla prej kocke, një numër i madh kockash të kafshëve të ndryshme të cilat kryesisht ndodheshin në qendër të sitit.

Gjatë hetimit të sitit, si material kampion, u zgjodhën disa forma enësh, vegla pune dhe kocka, të cilat u dokumentuan në situ dhe u spostuan në Muzeun Arkeologjik të Durrësit për analiza dhe dokumentim të thelluar. I gjithë materiali i rekuperuar është sipërfaqësor dhe sili është i pashqetësuar në shtresat e tij kulturore.

Analiza C 14 e kampionit të drurit të marë në palafit, ka dhënë në 95.4% të probabilitetit datimin 4936 – 4746 para Krishtit. Ky rezultat i datimit absolut, i gërshtuar me vlerësimin kronologjik paraprak të tipologjisë së enëve, e vendos sitin LIN Inë limitin e kalimit të Neolitit të Vonë në Eneolit, por nuk përjashton edhe mundësinë e një lidhjeje me format tranzitore të enëve të fundit të Neolitit të Mesëm.

Siti palafit prehistorik Lin 3.

Siti Lin 3 ndodhet poshtë faqes së Raidanës dhe në jug të Fushës së Stalecit. Ai është i pozicionuar rreth 0.85 km nga pika jugore e Gadishullit të Linit dhe rreth 0.5 km nga fshati Buqezë. Në shpinë të tij, sipër Buqezës, derdhen disa përrenj të cilët nuk janë aktivë gjithë vitin dhe në jug të siti derdhet Përroi i Thanës.

Ky sit ka qënë i njohur nga fillimi i viteve 80 të shekullit të kaluar. Në pak paragrafët e botuar, mungon tërësisht dokumentimi i përgjithshëm dhe i detajuar i tij. Mungon gjithashtu çdo lloj informacioni mbi qeramikën, por supozohej një datim i saj në Eneolitsi dhe jepet një informacion i përgjithshëm mbi palafitet.

Në hetimet e para të sitit Lin 3, u identifikua një sipërfaqe me palafitë që formonte një planimetri në formën e një drejtkëndëshi, me gjatësi rreth 160 m paralel me bregun dhe gjerësi rreth 50 m. E gjithë kjo sipërfaqe distancohej nga bregu me rreth 70 m.

Në vitin 2014-15 banorët e fshatit Buqezë, hapën disa kanale të përmasave të vogla, pingul me bregun, në drejtim të sitit, me qëllim shfrytëzimin e sipërfaqes për bujqësi. Gjatë këtyre punimeve u vunë re disa palafite si dhe qeramikë me ngjyrë të errët në të zezë, mjaft të coptuar dhe që e bënte të vështirë identifikimin e saj.

Për këtë arsye në zonën në fjalë, në 2016 u planifikua një sondazh testimi për të identifikuar shtresat kulturore. Rezultati pozitiv i sondazhitshtrori disa hipoteza pune, ku më e akredituara ishte ajo e rivlerësimit të sipërfaqes së banimit palafit, që duhet të jetë shumë më e madhe se sa ajo që konsiderohej më përpara.

Me këto të dhëna të reja, ashtu si dhe në rastin e Lin 1, siti palafit shtrihet si nëntokë ashtu dhe nënujë. Si vlerësim paraprak mund të themi që sipërfaqja e sitit duhet të konsiderohet rreth 170 m x 160 m. Palafitet kanë një perimetër që shkon nga 66-114 cm, diametri i tyre shkon deri në 47 cm dhe pavarësisht mungesës së analizave laboratorike të kampionëve të drurit, në nivel opinionit, ngjan që në ndërtimet e vendbanimit duhet të jenë përdorur druri i pishës dhe i gështenjës.

Gjatë hetimit të sitit u konstatua që nga banorët e zonës, peshkatarët lokalë, dyshohet dhe nga të huaj, të jetë marë material arkeologjik i sipërfaqes.

Në situ u identifikuan pjesë enësh qeramike të llojeve të ndryshme, kryesisht me ngjyrë të errët në të zezë dhe me ngjyrë kafe të erët dhe të çelur. Ato veçohen jo vetëm nga forma por dhe nga trashësia e tyre, përbërja e baltës dhe zgrasantët e përdorur.

U identifikuan gjithashtu vegla të ndryshme pune prej guri, si çekiçë të disa lloj formave, dhe një numër i madh kocka kafshësh.

Gjatë hetimit të siti u zgjodhën disa forma enësh, vegla pune dhe kocka, të cilat u dokumentuan në situ dhe u spostuan në Muzeun Arkeologjik të Durrësit për analiza dhe dokumentim të thelluar. I gjithë materiali i recuperuar është sipërfaqësor dhe siti duket të jetë i pashqetësuar në shtresat e tij kulturore.

Analiza C 14 e kampionit të drurit të marë në palafit, ka dhënë në 95.4% të probabilitetit datimin 4590 – 4453 para Krishtit. Ky rezultat i datimit absolut, i gërshetuar me vlerësimin kronologjik paraprak të tipologjisë së enëve, e vendos sitin LIN 3, ashtu si dhe siti LIN 1 në limitin e kalimit nga Neoliti i Vonë në Eneolit.

Siti palafit prehistorik Udënisht 1.

Në kuriz të sitit Udënisht 1, ndodhen dy maja malesh, ajo e Gurit të Shpuar dhe e Gurit të Kardavës. Në veri të siti derdhen Kroi i Bardhë dhe Kroi i Zi, ndërsa në jug derdhet lumi i Torbilit, ndërkohë që, në gjithë gjatësinë e kësaj zone, derdhen edhe 4 përrenj të tjerë pa emër. Ky kontest ambjental i ndihmuar në vite nga prurjet dhe depozitimet e materialit gjeologjik mbi sipërfaqen e sitit, ka bërë të mundur mbulimin e plotë të tij.

Zbulimi i sitit u bë në pranverën e vitit 2017. Ai ka një gjatësi rreth 160 m paralel me bregun dhe një gjërësi rreth 50 m, distanca nga bregu është rreth 80 m. Në 2-3 vitete e mëparëshme, u identifikua material arkeologjik vetëm në dy ekstremet e sipërfaqes ku shtrihet siti, në veri dhe jug. Shikushmëria nënujë ishte e keqe si rezultat i derdhjes së përrenjëve dhe mos evidentimi i palafiteve, krijoi një perceptim të gabuar sikur kishim të bënim me dy site të ndara. Tabani i liqenit në këtë zonë zhvillohet në formën e një depresioni dhe ky faktor ndikoi më shumë në këtë interpretim të gabuar. Tashmë është e konfirmuar se bëhet fjalë për të njëjtin sit.

Palafitet në gjithë sipërfaqen e sitit janë të mbuluar. Në zonat ku u testua sipërfaqja duke pastruar me lëvizje të dorës, palafitet rezultonin me dendësi të lartë dhe kishin diametër që lëviste nga 24 deri në 36 cm. Në gjithë sipërfaqen e sitit me palafite dallohej prania e objekteve arkeologjike të fragmentizuara. Në pjesën veri-lindore të sitit u identifikua dhe u dokumentu një enë e madhe me dekor në pjesën e sipërme të saj. Zbukurimii enës është në relief dhe këto zbukurime kanë formën e patkoit. Ena ishte e ndarë në tre pjesë dhe ruhej në 60% të saj. Brenda kishte copa druri të djegura dhe përfaqësonte enën më të madhe që u identifikua në sit dhe që u mor si kampion së bashku me fragmente të tjera enësh qeramike, vegla pune dhe kocka. Nga druri i djegur u mor një kampion për C14. I gjithë materiali i identifikuar u përzgjedh në kampione, ato u dokumentuan në situ dhe u transferuan në Muzeun Arkeologjik të Durrësit për analiza dhe dokumentim të mëtejshëm. Vlerësimi tipologjik i qeramikës e daton sitin në periudhën e Bronzit të Vonë. Në përgjigjen e muajit dhjetor 2017 nga Universiteti i Michiganit USA, analiza e C14 e konfirmon këtë datim tipologjik dhe kalibron datimin në 95.4% të probabilitetit nga 1500– 1311 para Krishtit.

Diskutim.

Identifikimi i dy siteve të reja palafite prehistorike Lin 1 dhe Udënisht 1 si dhe studimi i thelluar i sitit Lin 3 sjellin të dhëna të reja për periudhën e Neolitit të Vonë dhe Bronzit të Vonë. Të dhënat e para nga këto site dëshmojnë potencialitetin e lartë arkeologjik të integruar plotësisht në kontekstin gjeografik të zonës. Afërsia dhe dalja e shpejtë në lartësitë e Mokrës

dhe Qafën e Thanës dëshmohej me gjuetinë e kafshëve të egra dhe shfrytëzimin e pyjeve për ndërtim. Afërsia me liqenin dëshmohej nga aktivitetet e peshkimit dhe ato të komunikimit, si forma kontakti ndërmjet vendbanimeve bregliqenore. Vendosja në afërsi me fushat e vogla bregliqenore dëshmohej me aktivitetet në agrikulturë.

Të vendosura në pjesën perëndimore të liqenit të Ohrit, gjeografikisht gati simetrikë me pellgun e Korçës, me bregun verior dhe lindor të liqenit të Ohrit e më tej si dhe me Liqenin e Prespës, këto site mund të sjellin të dhëna të reja mbi format dhe intensitetin e kontakteve në këtë pjesë të Ballkanit si dhe një rivlerësim të Qafës së Ploçës si një portë e rëndësishme kontakti me pellgun e Korçës.

Për të tre sitet palafite, në sintezë:

- 1- Sitet palafite janë shumë mirë të konservuara.
- 2- Nuk kanë qenë subjekt ndërhyrje me sondazhe apo gërmime.
- 3- Analizat e kryera nuk kanë dëmtuar integritetin e tyre.
- 4- Marja e objekteve kampionë për studim, nuk e ka dëmtuar shtresën kulturore dhe është e gjitha e dokumentuar.
- 5- Janë kryer dokumentime grafike, fotografike dhe video pa i shqetësuar shtresat kulturore.
- 6- Është kryer zonifikimi mbrojtës i tyre.

Ndërlidhja e këtyre zbulimeve me sitet që ndodhen në pjesën maqedonase të liqenit të Ohrit.

Megjithëse studimi i materialit kampion i marë nga sitet palafite LIN 1, LIN 3 dhe Udënisht është në proces, shikohet një lidhje me sitet palafite të cilat ndodhen në FYROM.

Studimet e kryera nga arkeologët maqedonas dhe së fundmi, bashkëpunimi i tyre me prof. Albert Hafner në sitin palafit Ploça (FYROM), bashkëpunim i cili është në proces, lidh në kronologji por dhe si tipologji e kulturës materiale, këtë sit palafit me sitet LIN 1 dhe 3.

Të njëjtat paralele mund të vendosen edhe me sitin tjetër të FYROM, Ustie na Drin. Gjithashtu vlen të theksohet rëndësia e siteve palafite të zbuluara në bregliqenin shqiptar, si një hapësirë kulturore lidhëse, ndërmjet pjesës bregliqenore të FYROM dhe pellgut të Maliqit.

Kërkimet arkeologjike të përbashkëta me kolegët maqedonas dhe europianë mbi këto hipoteza pune, apo dhe të tjera, shkëmbimi i eksperiencave kërkimore, konservuese dhe mbrojtëse të siteve palafite në liqenin e Ohrit do të krijojë mundësi më të mira, për studimin e tyre në përputhje me rregullat dhe udhëzimet konform parametrave UNESCO.

Duke ju falendëruar për bashkëpunimin,

DREJTOR

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