



DELEGACIONI I PËRHERSHËM I
REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË PRANË
UNESCO-S

DELEGATION PERMANENTE DE LA
REPUBLIQUE D'ALBANIE AUPRES DE
L'UNESCO

Nr : 20/33

Paris, 31 January 2020

Dear Dr Rössler,

*In response to your letter of 26 July 2019, (ref : CLT/WHC/NOM/19/200) informing about the decision 43 COM 8B.9, taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 43d session in Baku, which approved the significant boundary modification proposed by Albania of the « **Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region** », I am pleased to enclose herewith a copy of the updated report on the state of conservation of the property, as asked for in the decision, to be submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

As you are well aware, a joint WHC/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission was carried out recently at the property and, further, on 17th January 2020, the two State Parties involved, Albania and North Macedonia, have established a joint Watershed Management Committee of Lake Ohrid as part of renewed efforts for the joint effective conservation of this World Heritage property.

Thanking you for your continuous collaboration and support, please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require further information.

Sincerely yours,

Ferit Hoxha
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate

Dr. Mechtild Rössler
Director,
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENT**

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**STATE PARTY REPORT
ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF**

**NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE OHRID
REGION**

99 ter

January 2020

Table of Contents

1	Executive Summary of the report	4
2	Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 40 COM 8B.9	5
2.1	Ensure the implementation of a formal transboundary coordinated management structure functioning and adequately resources, between the two participating States Parties and strengthen collaborative working between cultural and natural agencies and departments at both national and regional levels.	5
2.2	Strengthen and coordinate legal protection in both States Parties	6
2.2.1	<i>Review, completion of the Albanian legal framework to ensure protection and respect for the status of world property property,.....</i>	6
2.2.2	<i>Close cooperation between the two governments (Albania and Northern Macedonia) in order to guarantee the same standard of legal protection of the property, referring to European legislation.....</i>	8
2.3	Approve and operationalize the Municipal Development Plan.....	9
2.4	Operationalise planning guidelines	9
2.5	Increase human and financial resources to support the management of the property	10
2.6	Fully implement the Management Plan	11
2.7	Increase community participation.....	11
2.8	Introduce a monitoring regime	15
2.9	Strengthen protection at Lin church as a matter of urgency	17
2.10	Extend the treatment of sewage around the Lake, through installation and effective operation of sewage treatment plants beyond the newly commissioned facility at Pogradec, and through monitoring and control of agricultural run-off into the lake	18
2.11	Appoint designated personnel for the management of Lin Church, Lin village and Lin peninsula	21
2.12	Improve collection facilities at Pogradec museum and the conservation of waterlogged material from the pile dwelling sites	21
2.13	Continue to remove illegal structures along the lake shore and re-align part of the road away from the lake.....	21
2.13.1	<i>Illegal fishing farms</i>	21
2.13.2	<i>Removal of illegal Buildings along the lake shore and re-align part of the road away from the lake</i>	22

2.14	Prepare an inventory of the cultural sites in the buffer zone and introduce a conservation approach for these and the buffer zone landscape.....	23
2.15	Provide comprehensive comparative study of alternative routes for the proposed railway from Ki evohe in North Macedonia to Albania including those that do not pass through the inscribed property or in close vicinity to the lakeshore in Albania;	24
3	Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party (ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value	24
3.1	Rehabilitation of the Guri i Kuq (red stone) mining deposit area.....	24
3.2	Investments and maintenance works in cultural heritage during 2019.....	25
3.3	Census 2020 of the overwintering birds at Lake Ohrid	29
3.4	Improvement of touristic services for visitors.....	29
3.4.1	Improvement of touristic services in the Early Christian church, Lin	29
3.4.2	The cross border, shoreline tour guide	30
3.4.3	"The coast guard station Lin-Tushemisht"	30
3.4.4	"Square of roses" and Odeon amphitheater Project	31
4	In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> , describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.	31
4.1	Ongoing projects.....	31
4.1.1	100 Villages Program.....	31
4.1.2	Waterscape Park Design – Project of Albanian American Development Foundation	32
4.1.3	Requalification of Ohrid Lake Waterfront, Pogradec - Tushemisht village.....	33
4.1.4	Requalification of Ohrid Lake Waterfront, Lin village	34
4.1.5	Rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Pogradec	36
5	Public access to the state of conservation report.....	36
	LIST OF ANNEXES.....	37

1 Executive Summary of the report

The report for the state of conservation of “Natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region” 99 ter., was prepared in response to decision 43 COM 8B.9 of the World Heritage Committee, and in compliance to the format for submission of SoC reports in the Operational Guidelines 2015, Annex 13.

Chapter 2 explains the measures taken in response to the recommendations of WHC starting from the setting of a transboundary management structure through the organization of the constitutive meeting of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Committee on January, 2020. Also as required by the World Heritage Supplement, a committee for the management of the Albanian part of the world heritage property, shall be created within March 2020. Regarding the strengthening of the legal framework, section 2.2. lists the by-laws finalized by the Ministry of Culture during 2019 and in plan for 2020, the adoption of the WH Supplement which is effective and the study being undertaken by the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Korçë for the proposal of new designations within the Historic Centre of Pogradec and Lin. Both state parties are in an approximation process of the legal acts to the *acquis* which is evidence that both state parties are coordinating the legal protection based on EU Directives. Section 2.3 shows that the General Local Plan has been prepared and is currently in the phase of approval from the Municipal Council of Pogradec and National Council of Territory. Section 2.4 explains that the work of the responsible authorities for nature and culture is fully operational through approved annual action plans. Regarding the recommendation for increase of the human resources, section 2.5 explains that the State Party has appointed site managers, which are respective regional administrations for natural and cultural heritage. Since October 2019, the RDCH Korça is restructured and includes a dedicated sector for Pogradec. Measures taken in response to the recommendation for fully implementation of the WH Supplement are explained in section 2.6. Being fully effective, based on the WH Supplement, the proposed interventions within the WH property and buffer zone require prior approval from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Culture. Community awareness and engagement which is considered an essential part of the protection of natural and cultural values is described in section 2.7. As explained in section 2.8 regular monitoring regime is conducted for both natural and cultural assets and by the respective regional administrations and national authorities. Administrative and physical protection of the Lin church is ensured by the RDCH Korçë and National Institute of Cultural Heritage as described in section 2.9. Section 2.10 is a description of the current situation of the water supply and sewerage system in the whole region and plans for continuing the improvement works to the system to cover the Lin, Buqezë, Piskupat, Hudënisht, Mëmëlisht and Çermenakë villages. Section 2.12 is dedicated to the local Museum of Pogradec. Improvement of the building infrastructure as well as realization of a new museum platform is within the agenda of the Municipality of Pogradec with the support of the MoC. Section 2.13 lists the actions undertaken for the monitoring of illegal activities and structures in the lake and the protected landscape. Information on the national inventory of Cultural heritage through the webgis platform is provided in section 2.14. Currently there are no plans in place in the Albanian part of the world heritage property for the proposed railway from Ki evohe in North Macedonia as stated in section 2.15.

Chapter 3 describes maintenance works, projects and investments undertaken by the RDCH Korçë and the Municipality of Pogradec for the protection, promotion of both natural and cultural values and improvement of touristic services.

Chapter 4 focuses on major national programs as 100 villages and development projects funded by AADF and ADF that have in focus this area such as Waterscape Park Design Drilon – Tushemisht, and Requalification of the lake Ohrid Waterfront in Pogradec, Tushemisht and Lin.

2 Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 40 COM 8B.9

2.1 Ensure the implementation of a formal transboundary coordinated management structure functioning and adequately resources, between the two participating States Parties and strengthen collaborative working between cultural and natural agencies and departments at both national and regional levels.

The constitutive meeting of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Committee was organized on January 17, 2020. This first meeting was hosted by the Municipality of Ohrid and was chaired by the Minister for Diaspora of the North Macedonia, Mr. Edmond Ademi and the Mayor of Ohrid, Mr. Konstantin Georgevski.

The Republic of Albania was represented by Mr. Ilir Xhakolli, Mayor of Pogradec, Mr. Sokol Gjoka Secretary General of the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO and senior representatives the national and regional institutions responsible for nature and culture. (Annex 1 - Agenda, Full composition of relevant delegations, Rules of Procedure).

The purpose of this high level meeting was to discuss and address the issues related to the implementation of the full structure of this committee, define the tasks and responsibilities for each state party for the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee decision and coordination of agendas and related activities for the joint WHC/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Mission planned for the end of January 2020 as well as preparation for the next upcoming meeting. In this context, concrete decisions on the following issues were discussed and agreed:

- The Chairman and Secretary of the Committee for one term year were respectively appointed the Mayor of Ohrid, Mr. Konstantin Georgevski, and the Mayor of Pogradec, Mr. Ilir Xhakolli.
- Two representatives of the Secretariat of the Joint Committee, one for each state party were appointed as well.
- The title of the Committee in accordance with the terminology used by UNESCO was agreed to be revised as follows: *Lake Ohrid region Watershed Committee*.
- Preparation of the agenda for the WHC/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission in Albania and North Macedonia planned for the last week of January 2020. The committee emphasized the fact that this visit is of high importance and as such requires closer and productive cooperation between the two countries.
- Attracting possible investments from different donors based on joint projects proposals.
- Priority areas for the joint management for 2020 as well as fundraising options for a joint cross-border project between the two countries and the World Heritage Center/UNESCO will be addressed for discussion at the next Committee meeting.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, the parties reiterated the need for cooperation and the importance Lake Ohrid has for both state parties not only in terms of culture and heritage but also in terms of economic development, in particular through development and promotion of tourism in this cross-border region.
- The next meeting will be held within the first ten days of June 2020 in the city of Pogradec.

As required by the World Heritage Supplement to the Management Plan for Pogradec Protected Landscape, a committee for the management of the Albanian part of the world heritage property Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region, shall be created. This committee shall be

created jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Culture. An initial draft of the by-law for the creation of this committee is in process of consultation between the parties and is planned to be finalized within March 2020. The main function of this Committee will be to ensure the implementation of the World Heritage Supplement. One of the main responsibilities in the national level shall be coordination with the Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Committee.

2.2 Strengthen and coordinate legal protection in both States Parties

The transboundary laws and agreements that are being implemented, requires the strengthening of the coordination of both parts of the property. This constitutes an important task consisting of two aspects:

2.2.1 Review, completion of the Albanian legal framework to ensure protection and respect for the status of world property property.

During 2019, the Ministry of Culture, following the obligations from law no. 27/2018 “On cultural heritage and museums”, with the support of its specialized institutions has drafted and successfully finalized the legal acts (bylaws), as following:

- DCM No. 208, date 10.4.2019 “On composition, way of functioning, competencies and remuneration of members of the National Tangible Cultural Heritage Council”;
- DCM No. 279, date 2.5.2019 “On composition, way of functioning, competencies and remuneration of members of the National Cultural Properties Management Council”;
- DCM No. 364, date 29.5.2019 “On functioning and the way of activity development of National Cultural Heritage”;
- DCM No. 432, date 26.6.2019 “On functioning and the way of activity development of National Cultural Heritage Registration Institute”;
- DCM No. 581, date 28.8.2019 “On functioning and the way of activity development of Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage”;
- DCM No. 625, date 4.9.2019 “On adoption of the rules of administration of public cultural assets and of the functioning of legal entities established in the form of a foundation”;
- DCM No. 903, date 24.12.2019 “Adoption of the National Strategy of Culture 2019 -2025”;
- Prime’s Minister Order No. 136, date 21.10.2019 “On approval of the structure and organogram of the National Cultural Heritage Registration Institute”
- Prime’s Minister Order No. 137, date 21.10.2019 “On approval of the structure and organogram of the National Cultural Heritage Institute”;
- Prime’s Minister Order No. 139, date 21.10.2019 “On approval of the structure and organogram of the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage”;
- Minister’s of Culture Order No. 583, date 14.10.2019 “On approval standards for property transfer criteria and procedures for administration”.
- Minister’s of Culture Instruction no. 2223/6, date 30.04.2019 “On the functioning and responsibilities of cultural heritage and art institutions during the 2019 summer tourist season”.

Meanwhile, to continue the process, the Ministry of Culture during the 2020, has planned to finalize drafting and moving forward with the approval of legal acts (by-laws), as following:

- Draft DCM “On licensing conditions and criteria for performing archaeological activity”
- Draft DCM “On defining public procedures for the indirect administration of cultural property, natural or legal persons, public or private”;
- Draft DCM “On cultural immovable properties management plan extent, structure, content and development methodology”;
- Draft DCM “On adaption of competition procedures and criteria, agreement type and term, and methodology for determining the fees on granting for use cultural properties and on setting forth the general and special revitalization agreement terms “
- Draft DCM “On approval of special licensing conditions, accompanying documents, and procedures for reviewing and revoking a license for archaeological and underwater archaeological activity”;
- Draft DCM “On the approval of specific licensing conditions and criteria, accompanying documents, and procedures for reviewing and revoking a license for interference with tangible cultural property”;
- Draft DCM “ On approval of treatment modalities, technical norms, criteria and models of interventions in the field of cultural heritage preservation”;
- Draft Instruction “On requirements and ways of submitting verification requests, the fee methodology, the consultation bodies, the criteria for making a decision, and the documentation to be submitted along the application”;
- Draft Instruction “On remuneration of members of advisory commissions for the assessment and identification of movable object values”;
- Draft Instruction “On rules of granting for direct use cultural objects”;

The official English version of the Law 27/2018 “On Cultural heritage and museums” is provided in Annex 2.

The World Heritage Supplement to the Management Plan for Pogradec Protected Landscape 2017-2027 is adopted through Order of the Minister of Environment and Tourism No. 292 issued on 08.09.2017. The Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korçë was engaged in the framework of the preparation of the Guidelines for the built heritage in and around Pogradec with documentation of traditional buildings in the area. Based on this documentation, the RDCH is evaluating the buildings identified during this process, for potential designation with monument status. Within 2020 the RDCH plans to prepare proposals for new designation of monuments within the Historic Centre of Pogradec (buffer zone) and Lin Village (WH property).

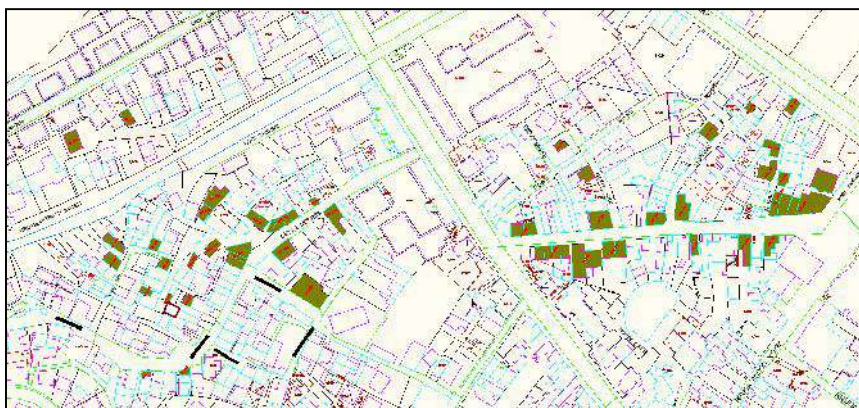


Fig. 1. Identified buildings in the Historic Centre of Pogradec (preliminary study)

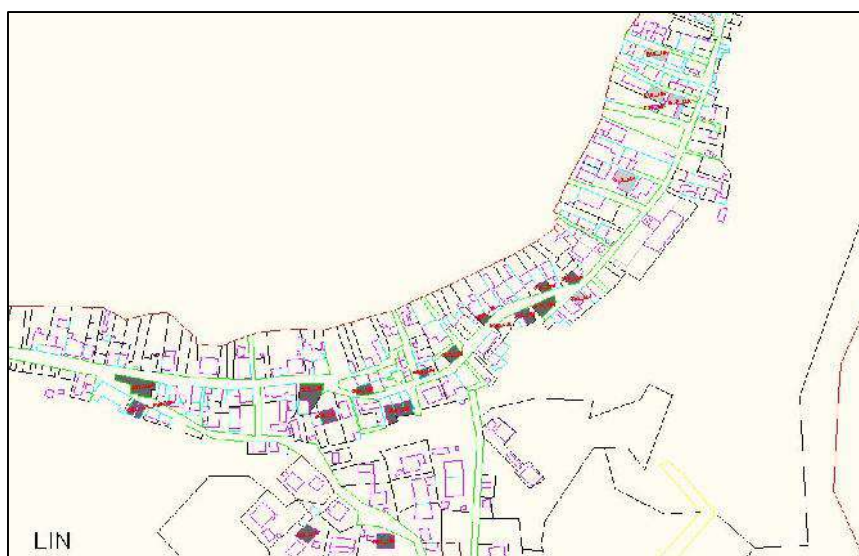


Fig. 2. Identified buildings in the Lin Village (preliminary study)

2.2.2 Close cooperation between the two governments (Albania and Northern Macedonia) in order to guarantee the same standard of legal protection of the property, referring to European legislation.

The Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia have received the Candidate status for the accession negotiation process in the European Union and one of the responsibilities is the drafting of the National Plan for European Integration, which objectives are:

- Serving as a planning tool for the fulfillment of obligations arising from the Stabilization and Association Agreement
- Approximation of national legislation with the European Union *acquis* as one of the criteria for EU membership

Albania is in the phase of approving the National Plan for European Integration 2020-2022 which aim is to coordinate this approximation process by defining its priorities, the legal acts to be approximated, the authorities responsible for drafting the Albanian drafts, the degree of approximation, the deadlines for adoption and entry into force and the cost of drafting legislation approximated, priorities and regulations. All line ministries have created Inter-institutional Working Group on European Integration for each chapter. For instance; the representatives from the Ministry of Culture have been appointed through the Minister of Culture Order No. 349 date 12.06.2019, which duties are to approximate the legislation referring to Art, Culture and Cultural heritage. The DCM No. 837 date 24.12.2019 has determined the official list of legal acts planned to be approved within 2020, in the framework of this process, which are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture. (the list of the legal acts is provided in the Annex 3). The New law on Cultural heritage and Museums No.27/2018, has been partly approximated with:

- European Council and European Parliament Directive 2014/60/EU, dated 15 May 2004, “On the Return of Illegally Removed Cultural Objects from a Member State Territory”, and amends the EU regulation no.1024/2012 Celex: 32014L0060; EU Official Journal, L.159, dated. 28.05.2014 pp1-10.

- European Council Regulation 116/2009/EU, dated 18 December 2008, “On Cultural Goods Export”, Celex 3A32009R0116, EU Official Journal, series L.139/1, dated.10.02.2009 pp 1-7.

2.3 Approve and operationalize the Municipal Development Plan

The General Local Plan for the Municipality of Pogradec is the most important document for the territorial development of the municipality, including the world heritage property and buffer area. The General Local Plan has been prepared and has completed the consultation process in line ministries as well as public consultations. It is currently in the phase of approval from the Municipal Council of Pogradec and in the National Council of Territory.

In addition to this, within the General Local Plan, requirements of the World Heritage Supplement to the Management Plan for the Pogradec Protected Landscape and the requirements of the “Regulation for the protection, integrated conservation and administration of the historic centre and buffer zone of the city of Pogradec” approved by DCM no. 554, dated 18.06.2015 are obligatory and their implementation is being monitored respectively by the regional authorities for natural and cultural component. Further, the Guidelines developed during the implementation of the project “*Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region*” is a valuable document that serves as a guide to the licensed entities and individuals engaged in the preparation of projects design and implementation project in this area.

Referring to the section 2.2., the Guidelines shall be included as annex of the General Local Plan. The General Local plan including Regulation, Maps, ESA and the Strategy for territorial development is provided in Annex 4.

2.4 Operationalise planning guidelines

The Operational annual Plan of Regional Administration of Protected Areas Korçë consists of concrete tasks for the implementation of activities and actions foreseen in the Supplement to the Management Plan for the natural ecosystems (programs I, V, VI of the Supplement). The regional staff of Pogradec, part of the Regional Administration of Protected Areas Korçë working on a daily basis translates these into concrete tasks.

The Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korçë as the regional institution that administers the cultural values in this area, has developed the annual work plan that includes concrete actions to be implemented for 2020. The annual work plan is approved by the Ministry of Culture and consists in maintenance works, cleaning works, improvement of touristic signage and service to visitors, periodic inspections as well as project design, implementation and supervision of restoration works. Conservation works in the mosaics of the early-christian church in Lin as well as improvement of service to the visitors (information and promotional material) is within the priority actions for 2020.

2.5 Increase human and financial resources to support the management of the property

The state party has already informed in October 2019, the World Heritage Centre regarding the appointment of the site managers responsible for the cultural and natural component of the newly nominated extension.

The natural component of the property and the buffer zone is under direct responsibility of Regional Administration of Protected Areas, Korçë. Its staff consists of one specialist responsible for natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

The cultural component in the world heritage property and buffer zone is under direct responsibility of the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage in Korça. Starting from 21 October 2019, the Regional Directorate of National Culture of Korça is restructured and has a new institution name and organigram based on Order of Prime Minister no. 139 dated 21.10.2019 for "Approval of structure and organigram of the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage". The department of Pogradec as part of the RDCH, Korçë has a staff consisting of two persons, one specialist and one technical personnel. This is explained further in sections 2.9. and 2.11.

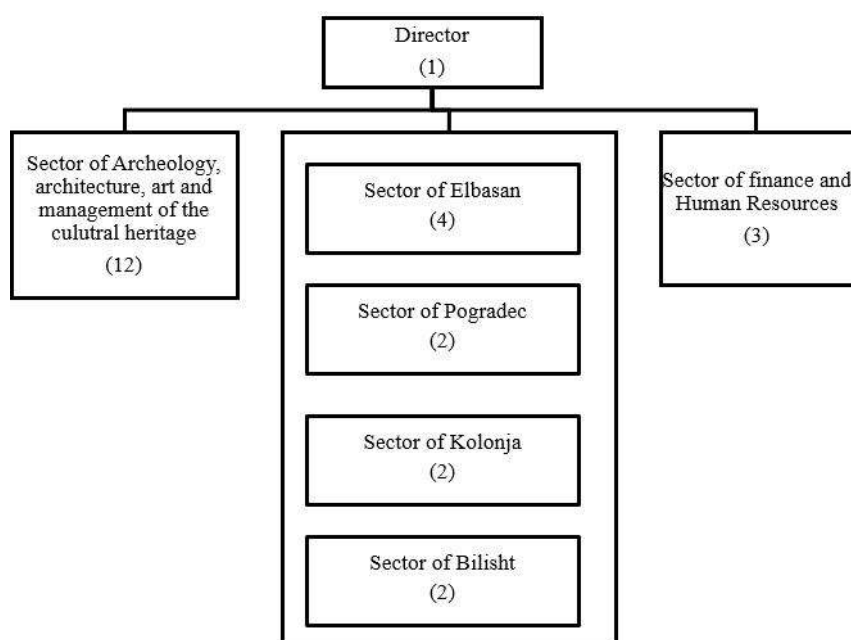


Fig. 3. Organigram of the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage Korçë

In addition dedicated personnel from Municipality of Pogradec is full time appointed to monitor the developing projects in the urban and rural area of the site.

The regional institutions depending from the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and Ministry of Culture responsible for the management of the world heritage property and buffer area are in constant communication and coordination on a daily basis and report periodically to the central specialized institutions National Agency of Protected Area and National Institute of Cultural Heritage.

The financial resources designated for the management of the property in the national level are approved by the Ministry of Finance and Economy and are allocated to the local government and line ministries for implementation by the regional authorities based on their annual plan.

2.6 Fully implement the Management Plan

The World Heritage Supplement to the Management Plan for Pogradec Protected Landscape 2017-2027 is fully effective. Based on Albanian legislation for territorial planning, all interventions in the territory are approved by the Municipal Council and National Council of Territory. For the World Heritage property and buffer zone in Pogradec prior approval of the proposed interventions from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Culture is obligatory.

In compliance to the law 27/2018 “On Cultural Heritage and Museum”, for evaluation of impact to the cultural component, proposals for development in the world heritage property and buffer zone must be presented for approval in the National Council of Tangible Cultural Heritage, a collegial decision making body chaired by the Minister of Culture. Only after the approval by this Council the proposal for development follows the procedures as established by the legislation in force for territorial planning.

In case of development proposals that may have an impact to the OUV, in compliance to the paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the state party transmits the proposal for evaluation from the advisory bodies prior to any decision.

2.7 Increase community participation

Community awareness and engagement is considered an essential part of the protection, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values. This is achieved through a series of national programs and related activities such as:

- "*Friends of Monuments*" initiative, launched on April 2014 by the Ministry of Culture: The program targets the elementary and high schools children. It puts in the spotlight both the monuments and the young generation, which has the opportunity to familiarize with the monuments, learn about their history, caring for them through organization and implementation of cultural activities.
- National program “*Education through Culture*”. The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Sport expresses the will to promote cultural awareness, expression, creativity and diversity, particularly to the young generation. The program is conducted by MoC and its national and regional institutions in close cooperation with the regional institution responsible for education. The program aims the cultural education for the young generation, in order for them to contribute in a general and sustainable growth of the country.
- Daily continuous meetings between the staff of RDCH Korçë and private owners of houses (cultural monuments), constant awareness raising about the importance of preserving cultural values they possess, explaining what are negative consequences from destructions of many of them and need for collaboration with state institutions.

Some of the most important awareness raising activities and community organized by the national, regional and local institutions are listed below:

29 July 2019 - “Celebration of the Decision of the World Heritage Committee Decision for the World Heritage status extension in Albania”

National authorities from Albania and North Macedonia, local institutions and representatives from international community gathered on 29 July 2019 in Pogradec to celebrate the WH extension and confirm their commitment to safeguard the natural and cultural values of Ohrid Lake.

The event jointly organized by the Minister of Tourism and Environment Mr. Blendi Klosi and Minister of Culture, Ms. Elva Margariti was attended by Mr. Ilir Xhagolli, mayor of Pogradec Municipality, Mr. Eduard Shalsi, State Minister for Protection of Entrepreneurship, Mr. Naser Nuredini, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning and Mr. Hysni Ismaili, Minister of Culture of North Macedonia, IUCN, etc. They all confirmed readiness to work together to protect and promote the Lake Ohrid region as a place of Europe’s earliest human settlements with exceptional natural and cultural heritage.

The activity was warmly welcomed and attended too by the local community of Pogradec and representatives of local organization (NGOs) operating in the field of nature and culture.



Fig. 4. Celebration of the World Heritage Status

29 September, the National Heritage Day – Annual event

The National Heritage Day aims at promoting cultural heritage values and raising of public awareness on the potential that our national heritage values represent. The Regional Directorate of National Culture in Korça organized a series of activities one of the most important was the opening of the mosaics of the early Christian Church of Lin peninsula.

The activities of the RDNC Korça involved mainly the young generation, schools as part of the national programs “Education through culture” and “Friend of Monuments”.



Fig. 5. Awareness raising Activities – Early Christian church and mosaics, Lin Village



Fig. 6. Awareness raising Activities – Historic Centre of Pogradec



Fig. 7. Awareness raising Activities – Historic Centre of Pogradec

23 December 2019

"Allow me to speak" commemorative event organized on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the birth of the nationally recognized poet Lasgush Poradeci. These activities were attended by local institutions representatives as well as the local community and schools. As part of the event, two activities were organized:

- Exhibition organized by the Directorate General of Archives under the auspices of the director Mr. Ardit Bido and Deputy Mayer Ms. Entela Gusho.
- Poetic evening held in the Cultural Center hall in his honour



Fig. 8. Photo during the Activity, "Allow me to Speak!"

Exhibition "Through heritage from Korça to Prizren"

The exhibitions was implemented in Albania (Korça) and Kosovo (Prizren) in the frame of Albania – Kosovo cultural calendar 2019. It was jointly organized by the Regional Directorate of Cultural heritage of Korça and Regional Centre of Cultural Heritage of Prizren. On these occasion, some of the important cultural heritage values of Albanian part of Lake Ohrid region were promoted in graphics such as the Early Christian church of Lin, Icka brotherhood house, were exhibited.



Fig. 9. Photo during the Activity and extracts from the exhibition



Fig. 10. Photo during the Activity and extracts from the exhibition

Activities dedicated to the young generation, - Painting the “Icka” House, 1st category monument



Fig. 11. Photo during the Activity

Local festivities organized annually in the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region

The Cultural activities organized in the historic center of Pogradec during 2019 had the main focus on promoting the OUV of the property. Some of the main festivities that have become annual and that involve the two parts of the lake are shown below:

- **Lake Day** takes place annually on June 21. All the town gather in activities where local delicacies, including food and culture are showcased.
- **“Teto Olga Fest”** takes place annually on 21-22 July. It begins with the cutting of bostan. The origin of this festivity is related to the filming of the famous movie "Zonja nga qyteti". A competition with traditional dishes from the Tushemisht guest houses and varied activities such as handicrafts, culinary competitions, summer cinemas etc., are organized as well.
- **"Wine Fest"** - Takes place in December. The tradition of the wine making is one of the most ancient traditions, present in the local community of Pogradec. During this Fest, Pogradec families compete together for the best homemade wine in the city.
- **“Koran of the Lake”** takes place annually on 13-15 August. The Koran fish of Pogradec Lake is not only unique in Albania but also in the world. This day brings together many visitors who enjoy the Koran fish and its Pogradeci a cooking skill.

2.8 Introduce a monitoring regime

Monitoring of the Natural Assets

The National Agency of Environment, subordinate institution of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is the institution that undertakes regular monitoring of the environment for the quality of air, water, noise level, land, forests and biodiversity. It carries out its activity based on annual plans. Regarding monitoring of water quality in the lake Ohrid, the methodology is based on national legislation Law no. 111/2012, dated 15.11.2012 "On the management of integrated water resources"; DCM No. 267, dated 7.5.2014 "For approval of the list of priority substances for the aquatic environment", DCM no. "On the definition of the norms of Environmental Quality for

Surface Water” and international directive WFD, Directive 2006/44 / EC of the European Parliament and Council of 6 September 2006 on the quality of fresh water that need protection in order to support the fish life.

There are two monitoring stations in the Lake Ohrid which monitor the water quality 4 times per year, based on indicators: temperature, transparence, pH, alcalinity, electrical conductivity, presence of O₂, NKO, NBO₅, nitrites, nitrates, amoniac, P_{total}, chlorophila a. The first station is located at depth 150 meters where samples are taken at 8 depths from the surface to the end of the lake, respectively 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 150 m, while station no.2 is 200 m from the coast, in front of the city, at a depth of over 5 meters. (refer to Annex 11 – Environmental State Report, 2018)

Monitoring of Cultural Heritage Assets

The Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korça is the institution responsible for the monitoring of the state of conservation of all cultural heritage assets (monuments and sites) in the county of Korça. As explained in section 2.9. and 2.11 below, the monitoring of cultural heritage assets in the world heritage site and buffer zone is part of the everyday work of the dedicated staff for Pogradec. Monitoring is done through inspections on site of the specialists and technical staff which report to the department of archaeology and architecture in the RDCH Korçë. The information on the state of conservation is updated periodically through annexes in the monuments files. Based on the information, the National Institute of Cultural heritage updates the list of monuments in risk in annual basis. Table 1 below describes the periodicity of monitoring of main cultural heritage monuments and sites in the World heritage site and buffer zone.

Tab. 1 - Monitoring periodicity of cultural heritage monuments and sites (WH site and buffer zone)

No.	Name of the monument	Monitoring periodicity	Responsible institution
Within the World Heritage Property			
1.	The remains of the Early Christian church and mosaics at Lin	daily inspection	RDCH Korça, Department of Pogradec
2.	The ruins of the byzantine church near the fishing station	monthly inspection	RDCH Korça, Department of Pogradec
3.	The prehistoric settlement of Zagradie in the hill located near the village of Zagradie	daily inspection	RDCH Korça, Department of Pogradec
Within the Buffer Zone			
1.	The historic center of Pogradec	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça, Department of Pogradec
2.	The castle of Pogradec	monthly inspection	RDCH Korça, Department of Pogradec

On annual basis, part of mosaics of the Lin church (specific sections) are open for visitors during the touristic season. This allows protection and inspection of the state of conservation. The opening the mosaics upon the proposal of the RDCH is done by decision of the National Council

of Tangible Cultural Heritage. Expertise for the conservative works is provided by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (NICH), Department of works of art, the expert of mosaics. Also the process of opening and closing of mosaics is carried out under the supervision of the expert of mosaics of the NICH.

Again on a yearly basis, mosaic floors of specific rooms are opened for the purpose of inspection / monitoring of their state of conservation. The opening and control of the condition of all surfaces decorated with mosaic in the church is accomplished within a 3-year cycle due to the large surface and the financial cost of opening and monitoring them. Based on this periodic inspection, conservative intervention are planned.

During the openings for touristic purposes and condition inspection, maintenance, cleaning, consolidation of the mosaics is carried. During the closure of the mosaics, renovation of the protective sand layer is done maintaining 25-30 cm thickness of the sand layer due to severe weather conditions in the Lin area.

After the earthquakes of June 2019 that struck Korça County, and also after the earthquakes of September and November 2019 that struck Durrës County but was felt in all Albania, all the monuments in the Pogradec region were inspected by the RDCH Korça. Priority was given to the monuments located in the world heritage property and buffer zone.

2.9 Strengthen protection at Lin church as a matter of urgency

Administrative protection

The state party has already informed in October 2019, the World Heritage Centre regarding the appointment of the site managers responsible for the cultural and natural component of the newly nominated extension. The Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korça is the regional institution responsible for the cultural component of the property.

Institution contact details are provided below:

Director: z. Edvis Koki, Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korça

Address: Rruga “Lefter Serafini”, Korçë

Tel: +355 (0) 82 243 122; Cel: +355 (0) 692000039

E-mail: drkkkorce@kultura.gov.al

The activities of all the six Regional Directorates of Cultural Heritage in Albania are coordinated and supervised by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage.

Physical Protection

One technical personnel is designated full time for the maintenance and security of the Early Christian church of Lin and its protected area. The remains of the church comprise an area of 650 m² (church plan) and include an area of about 180 m² mosaic floors. A larger territory that includes the archaeological remains, is surrounded with fences that physically secure the monument and prevent uncontrolled entrances of the visitors. Visits to the monument are free of charge and are enabled and monitored by the dedicated personnel. The mosaics of the church are covered with plastic sheet and a layer of sand which is periodically renewed (explained in section 2.8).

2.10 Extend the treatment of sewage around the Lake, through installation and effective operation of sewage treatment plants beyond the newly commissioned facility at Pogradec, and through monitoring and control of agricultural run-off into the lake

The project for three transboundary lakes funded by GIZ, in close cooperation with local stakeholders and with contribution of a foreign expert in the field, has prepared a program of important measures to minimize or eliminate pollution sources for Lake Ohrid.

Thanks to the support of the German Government and the support of the Albanian Government, the Pogradec Water Supply and Sewerage Company has achieved its goal in providing the entire city of Pogradec with a sewerage system and providing 24 hours of clean and controlled water supply to the entire Pogradec and Bucimas area. Lake Ohrid is one of the oldest lakes in the world with a high biodiversity. Its designation as a world heritage site has been and continues to be in the focus of Water Supply and Sewerage Company for ensuring its protection.

The Project for the protection of Ohrid Lake, has been fully developed in three phases by the Implementing Agency and Water Supply and Sewerage Company. These phases consist on the implementation of the potable water network, the treatment of used water and the construction of pumping stations, reservoirs and the wastewater treatment plant.

The first phase of this project (2004-2008) was funded from the German Government through the German bank KfW and cofinanced by the Albanian government with local costs and VAT and costed 0.5 million Euros. The project is considered a large-scale project due to the importance of implementation consisting of two separate components, the water and sanitation.

The sewerage component focused on potable water supply network and construction of the needed basis for the collection and treatment of sewage and rainwater, with the construction of a main collector along the Lake Ohrid coast, a main pumping station with pressure pipe, a central treatment plant with capacity for 25,000 inhabitants, a smaller station connecting the village of Tushemisht with the wastewater treatment plant.

The city of Pogradec and the administrative unit of Buçimas were supplied with water 24 hours a day based on Eu standards. Water meters were installed throughout the area covered by the new water supply system. 6,000 housing connections were fitted with the new water supply network. The production and distribution of water in the reservoirs is controlled automatically through the SCADA system.

Based on studies carried out in 2008-2009, along the area and the lakeshore for the identification of its state, an outdated sewage network was identified which not only polluted the environment but also destroyed the biodiversity in Lake Ohrid. Based on the summarized feasibility for the sewer network, the second phase of the Project for the protection of Lake Ohrid would prioritize the construction of a new sewage system, treatment and treatment of wastewater through the treatment and purification plant that was built at the first stage of the project. In 2009 in a financial agreement was signed between the German Government and the Albanian Government for the second phase of the Sewerage Project with two main objectives:

- Reduction of the discharge of water to the Lake and its treatment in order to protect the health of the population of the city of Pogradec,
- Collection, environmental, hygienic and economical treatment of sewage in Pogradec and Buçimas.

During this phase a new sewage system was developed and implemented and put into operation in almost all the city of Pogradec.

Upon completion of the two phases, it is worth noting that prior to the construction of the wastewater treatment plant, these waters were discharged into the Lake, which was affecting the destruction of the lake's biodiversity and endangering the lives of the population. Today, these waters are collected in the sewage plant, processed and treated in the lake at a level of BOD much lower than they entered when they were pumped directly into the lake. The level of BOD when the wastewater discharged into the lake was 200-250 mg / l today is 10-15 mg / l. After the implementation of the sewage system and wastewater treatment, providing the population with a better quality service, it was necessary that the rural areas of the town of Pogradec were also equipped with a water supply and sewerage system. The town of Pogradec is a lakeside town and a considerable part of its rural areas lie along the lakeshore, which inevitably contribute to the pollution of the Lake due to sewerage discharge.

Phase III of the Project for the protection of lake Ohrid (2013-2018) would aim at developing wastewater treatment to increase the purity of Lake water by providing a sewerage network (new reservoirs, water distribution network, main stations and pumping stations) Vërdovë, Gurras, Gështenjas and Bahçallëk. Buçimas administrative Unit consists of villages, Vërdovë, Buçimas, Rëmenj, Gështenjas, Bahçallëk, Gurras dhe Tushemisht. In this unit, Tushemisht has 99% sewage system service excluding the Voloreka / Drilon area. In the village of Buçimas there is 32% of the sewerage system, in Vërdovë there is a sewage coverage of 43% and in the village of Gurras there is 2% of the sewerage system. This remaining area not covered by the sewerage network needs another additional project in order to achieve the entire objective with 100% fulfillment of the entire area. Supply of Gurras with sewage system will be realized through the implementation of the project which has started to be implemented in cooperation with the Municipality of Pogradec. Map of the areas covered with sewerage system and areas remaining uncovered is provided in Annex 5.

The waste water treatment plant (WWTP), was expanded as the work to collect and purify the wastewater that would come with the expansion of the sewer network required a doubling capacity of more than 50,000 inhabitants. Containing a high amount of Phosphorus, Phase III of the project provided a fund for the purchase of the FeClSO_4 chemical which enabled the elimination of phosphorus in the lake. The water in the lake continues to be treated today with the chemical treatment to eliminate phosphorus in it.

Projects planned for 2019 for the implementation of the new sewerage and water supply network in the areas uncovered with service

The Project for the protection of Ohrid Lake - Phase IV, aims to continue implementation of the new water supply and wastewater treatment network through the construction of pumping stations and used water treatment plants for protection of Lake Ohrid water and ecosystem.

The 4th phase of the implementation, focuses on new units that currently consist in depreciated networks. Villages that have a direct negative impact on the lake are administrative unit localities of Udënisht. Other localities also part of other administrative units are in urgent need of building a potable water network to avoid the negative impact on the health of the inhabitants who consume water from the source. Constructions in these areas will include:

- rehabilitation - construction of new network for potable water,
- construction of sewerage network in all areas,
- reconstruction of water tanks in all villages,
- placement of water meters
- wastewater collection and treatment.

Through these new investments, supply of 24h potable water and collection and treatment of the sewerages in the administrative units Udënisht and Proptisht are expected to be realized. The areas without sewage coverage have a direct impact on the lake since all activities in the area causes pollution and potential damage to the ecosystem. The completion of the sewerage system in these areas is necessary to fulfill all the required parameters and standards.

With the changes made in reference to the law on territorial division in the Republic of Albania, the Water supply and sewerage company Pogradec manages all the administrative units currently uncovered by the system. Based on the experience gained during the previous phases of the project as Executing Agency, it has compiled a general overview on all areas. The administrative unit of Udënisht extends along the western part of Lake Ohrid with 6 villages (Lin, Buqezë, Piskupat, Hudënisht, Mëmëlisht and Çermenakë). These areas are priority for intervention.

Residents in these areas, supply potable water mainly through natural sources. Laboratoric analysis undertaken by the company show that in some cases the water used is not suitable for drinking or for use in agriculture, emphasizing the fact that water for irrigation is also needed in some of the rural areas. Also sewage treatment system, in the western area (which occupies a large part of the Lake shore) is missing. Sewerage are either discharged in the lake or discharged in individual septic tanks. The entire west shoreline needs a detailed study for the preparation plan for a water supply and sewage network with necessary impacts on:

- Protection of the Lake Ohrid ecosystem and environment
- Collection and treatment of sludge and wastewater in the area
- Supply of potable water according to EU standards

After realizing the feasibility of this area where the needs for pumping stations, resource utilization and wastewater treatment plants will be precisely identified, the inherent problems will be resolved. Currently the administrative unit of Udënisht consist of about 7,344 inhabitants and 6 villages (Udënisht, Lin, Piskupat, Buqezë, Mëmëlisht, Çermenakë) and 9 sources.

As this administrative unit and not only, is rich with a great number of water sources that can be used for potable water, the biggest problems remain the sewage system and sewerage network and their treatment plants. Each village needs construction of sewer network and a small treatment plant for the treatment of wastewater before being discharged into the lake. With the exception of the city of Pogradec and partially the administrative unit of Buçimas, all other units that are under administration of the Pogradec Water supply and Sewerage Company (based on DCM no. 63) are not covered with water supply network and sewerage system and are currently in the process of application for construction and implementation of new projects.

2.11 Appoint designated personnel for the management of Lin Church, Lin village and Lin peninsula

The administration of Lin Peninsula is under the shared responsibility of the Regional Administration of Protected Areas - Korça, Municipality of Pogradec and Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage - Korça. The Lin village is administered by the Municipality of Pogradec through the administrative unit of Udënisht.

The Lin Church has one appointed dedicated personnel for physical security, maintenance and management of visitors, part of the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Korça, Department of Pogradec. Detailed information on this issue is provided in section 2.9 of this SoC report.

2.12 Improve collection facilities at Pogradec museum and the conservation of waterlogged material from the pile dwelling sites

The museum of Pogradec was opened for the first time in 1964. It is a local museum under the direct responsibility and administration of the Municipality of Pogradec with a dedicated staff consisting of 2 specialists and 2 supporting personnel. The museum is financed annually by the Municipality. It holds a collection of 1,522 archaeological and ethnographic objects, 57 artworks and original documents and more than 2,000 photos that are in the process of registration. The collections are displayed in three pavilions organized in the following main subjects: history, ethnology and archaeology. Only 30% of this vast collection is exhibited due to the lack of exhibition showcases.

Recently, a project idea for the relocation of the museum premises in another building, along the lake shore (within the governmental residences area), has been prepared and forwarded for approval to the Ministry of Defence which administers the governmental residences. Upon approval of the project idea, detailed projects for improvement of the infrastructure of the new building and the realization of the new museum platform shall be developed. Considering the importance of the museum collections (the majority of which is authentic), the Ministry of Culture will support the improvement of the infrastructure of the building as well as will assist the realization of a new museum platform. In case the project idea (relocation of the museum) does not get approved in the following months as expected, the improvement of the facilities will be applied in the current building.

The new museum platform will provide a new organisational and contemporary concept including dedicated pavilions for waterlogged archaeological material from the pile dwelling sites.

As per procedure established by the Law on cultural heritage and museum, the proposals will be presented for approval by the National Council for Museums.

2.13 Continue to remove illegal structures along the lake shore and re-align part of the road away from the lake

2.13.1 Illegal fishing farms

Through the Order of the Minister for Agriculture and rural development No. 265, issued on 19.04.2019 "For the prohibition of fishing in the Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa", fishing by any

means and method of hunting, including boarding, boat transiting, deliberate landing and placing on the market or consumption of all species of carp family fish in Lake Ohrid was prohibited during the period 20 April 2019 to 1 July 2019.

Monitoring and inspection of fishing activities and economies of fishery are carried out by the inspectorate of fishing, part of the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services. The Inspectorate monitors the legal economies of fishery through state contracts. Upon completion of a contract the subject is responsible for the removal of the fishery farm and rehabilitation of the area. The Inspectorate of fishing in Pogradec, through inspections undertaken in the Lake, has identified 25 subjects that carry illegal activity of fish farming (situation in October 2019). The inspectorate of fishing has given warnings (September 2019) to the identified subjects and has applied administrative measures (fines) to five of them. Identification of these subjects and their registration is done in cooperation with the tax office for the provision of tax registration numbers of the subjects. Some of the subjects have responded to the warnings by abandoning the activity. From the nature of the fish farming that includes construction of fish tubs, even though some of the farms have been abandoned, the action to destroy the constructed tubs requires financial cost and is done through the inspectorate of territorial protection. Actions for the destruction of the fishery farms have been taken during the removal of illegal buildings along the shore of the Lake. During this extensive actions (2017-2018), also the many existing fishery farms were destroyed and removed. (Example of an administrative measure – decision of the fishing inspectorate for the application of a fine, as well as the original document of the Inspectorate of fishing showing the identified illegal subjects dated October 2019, are provided in Annex 6).

The Regional Administration of Protected Areas, Korçe (RAPA) in cooperation with the Inspectorate of Fishing and the State Police undertakes periodic monitoring in all aquaculture subjects operating in Pogradec Protected Landscape, and applies warnings setting a deadline for their removal. Voluntary abandonment of the illegal activities of fishery farms have been identified in the monitored areas upon warnings or in zones where alternative sources of income have been possible (eg. Family tourism in Tushemisht village).

2.13.2 Removal of illegal Buildings along the lake shore and re-align part of the road away from the lake

Extensive actions for the removal of illegal buildings along the shore Lin – Pogradec were undertaken by the government of Albania through the National Inspectorate for Territorial Protection during 2017-2018. During October 2019, the responsible authorities: National Inspectorate of Territorial Protection (IKMT), state Police undertook action for demolishing three illegal buildings along the Lin-Pogradec segment.

Ongoing projects funded by the Albanian Development Fund for the Requalification of Ohrid Lake Waterfront, Pogradec (explained in section 4.1.3) include among their priority actions also the “Enabling the continuity of the lake shore by demolishing the informal settlements at the entrance of the city and in Tushemisht village”.

2.14 Prepare an inventory of the cultural sites in the buffer zone and introduce a conservation approach for these and the buffer zone landscape

A national inventory for the Cultural Heritage monuments and sites is available. The National List of Cultural heritage monuments and sites is updated in annual basis from the technical secretariat of the National Council of Tangible Cultural Heritage. Cultural heritage properties are registered in the database administered by the National Institute of registration of Cultural Heritage.

The National Institute of Cultural Heritage administers the National webgis platform (<http://imk.gov.al/Pages/Default.aspx>) of the cultural monuments and sites which shall include a new layer dedicated to the world heritage designation of the property. The State party has requested to the World Heritage Centre to provide the official digital map of the World Heritage Property and Buffer zone, developed in the framework of the project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region”. Upon provision of this map, it will be visualized in the National Web Gis platform.

Information on values, state of conservation for each monument and cultural heritage site is provided through the individual monuments’ files (fisches) which are available in the Regional directorate of Cultural Heritage and National Institute of Cultural Heritage. The monument’s files are updated periodically to include annexes with information on state of conservation gathered from the inspections on site, implemented restoration works etc. Monuments’ files (fiches) for the cultural heritage monuments and sites located within the WH site and Buffer zone including information on their state of conservation based on the most recent inspections are provided in Annex 7 .

Detailed descriptive, graphic and photographic documentation for these assets (including material produced from the time of their designation to nowadays) is available in the Technical Archive of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage.

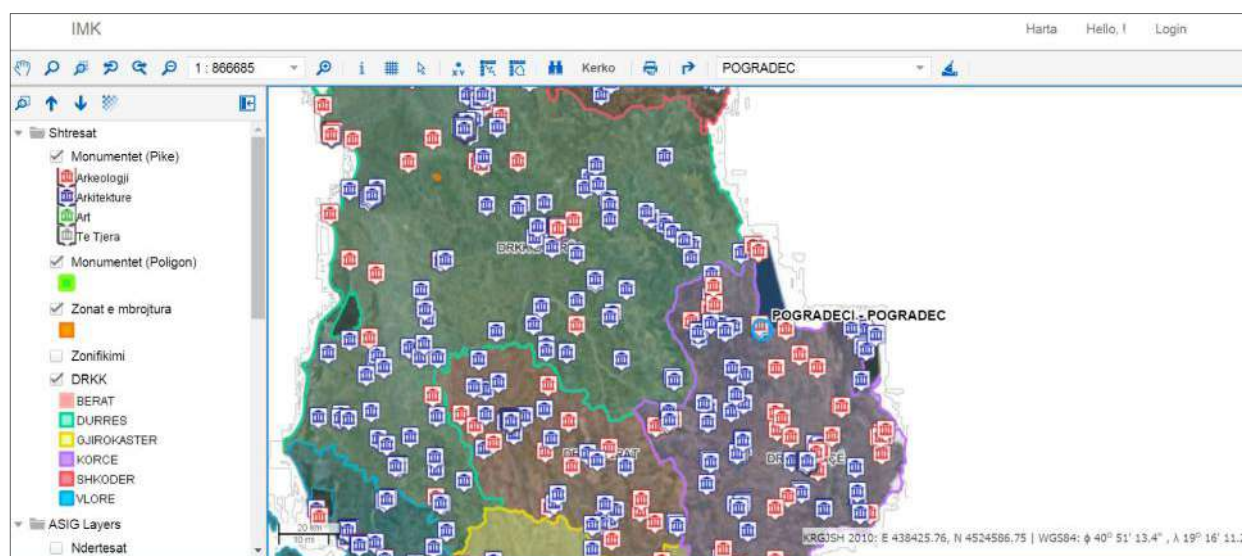


Fig. 12. National Webgis Platform – Cultural Monuments and sites in Albania

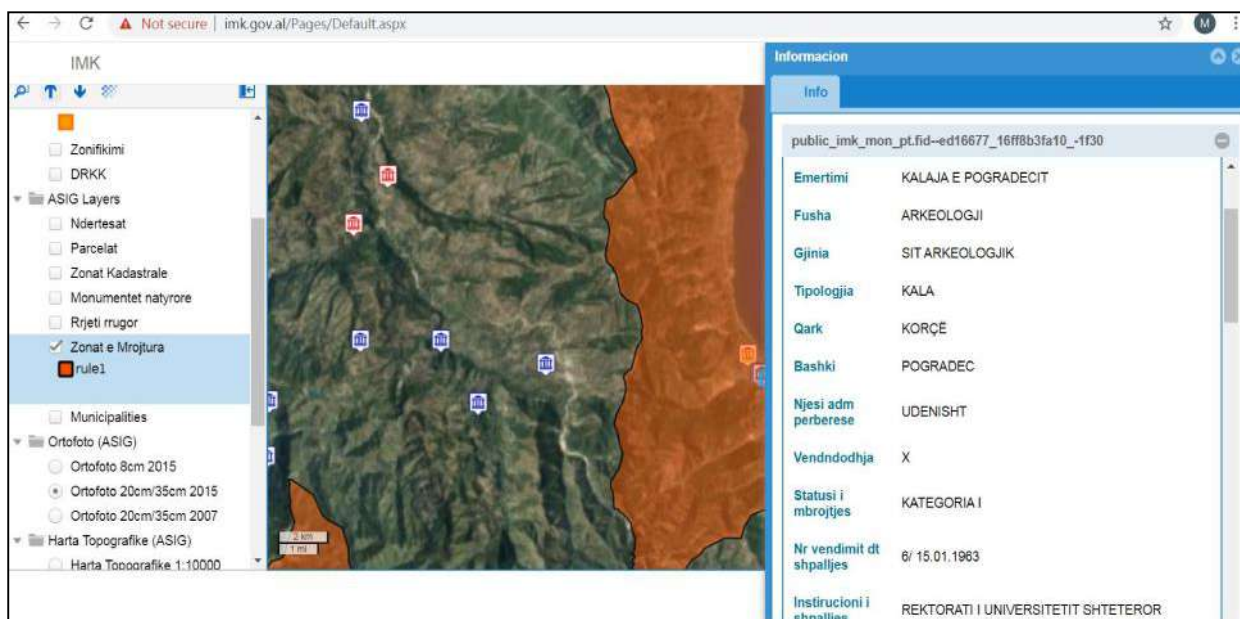


Fig. 13. National Webgis Platform – Cultural Monuments and sites in Albania – information table pop-up when clicking for information on a monument

2.15 Provide comprehensive comparative study of alternative routes for the proposed railway from Ki evohe in North Macedonia to Albania including those that do not pass through the inscribed property or in close vicinity to the lakeshore in Albania;

Currently there are no plans in place in the Albanian part of the world heritage property for the proposed railway from Ki evohe in North Macedonia to Albania. Pursuant to paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage, the State Party will notify in advance the World Heritage Centre in case the Albanian authorities will undertake any initiative in this regard.

3 Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party (ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

3.1 Rehabilitation of the Guri i Kuq (red stone) mining deposit area

The regional administration of protected areas Korçë has undertaken concrete actions for:

- restriction the largest possible for mining activities which in its estimation cause more environmental damage, landscape damage, damage in the lake.
- removal of the mining deposits from Guri i Kuq mining area and rehabilitation of the site is under process. It is being undertaken by the Company and the largest part is already removed.
- in order to remove waste from proximity to rivers and streams the municipality has developed a project idea for the settlement of all the rivers flowing into the lake, meanwhile some barriers have been built.

The Minister of Environment and Tourism and the Prefect organized in Pogradec a meeting with the Mayor of the local government of Korça district. In the meeting they discussed for finding a solution to the problem of waste and clearing of territory. The parties expressed determination to take immediate measures by the spring of 2020.

3.2 Investments and maintenance works in cultural heritage during 2019

During 2019, the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage (RDCH), Korça has undertaken maintenance works and has supervised private funded restoration works in five cultural monuments both in WH property and buffer zone. The table 1 below provides a list of these monuments showing source of funding and value of investment.

Tab. 2 - Maintenance and Restoration works during 2019 (WH site and buffer zone)

No.	Name of the monument	Designation	Source of funding	Value (in ALL) 1 Eur = 121.61 ALL
Investment within the World Heritage Property				
1.	Maintenance works in the mosaics of the Early Christian church at Lin	1 st category	RCDH, Korça	100,000
2.	Improvement of signage for the Early Christian church at Lin	1 st category	RCDH, Korça	51,000
Investment within the Buffer Zone				
3.	The house of Icka brotherhood Historic center of Pogradec	1 st category	RDCH, Korça	776,726
4.	The house of Sandri Qipro, Historic center of Pogradec	1 st category	RDCH, Korça	1,213,078
5.	Restoration and rehabilitation of the former Cinema (two buildings complex), Historic Centre of Pogradec	2 nd category	Private owners Works supervised by RDCH Korça	13,590,256.3
TOTAL				15,731,060.3

The section below provides short description and photos from these works:

1. Maintenance works in the mosaics, Lin

The works included the opening of some of the mosaic floors in Lin, inspection of the state of conservation, renewal of the sand layer covering the mosaics with the aim of protecting. This process is done during the dry season on annual basis.



Fig. 14. Photo during the the maintenance works in the mosaics, Lin

2. Improvement of signage and information pannel - Early Christian church at Lin

Improvement of the main information panel in the entrance of the early christian church in Lin Village and and implementation of additional signage aiming at the orientation and information of visitors, is undertaken by the RDCH Korçë.



Fig. 15. Photo during the works for improvement of signage – Lin

3. House of Icka brotherhood – 1st category monument, Historic Centre of Pogradec



Fig. 16. Photo during the restoration works in the roof



Fig. 17. Photo during the restoration works in the roof

4. House of Sandri Qipro, 1st category monument, Historic Centre of Pogradec





Fig. 18. Photo during the works, consolidation of the walls and restoration of the façade

5. 2nd Category monuments in the Historic Centre of Pogradec, Rehabilitation of the former Cinema, Private investment, supervised by RDCH Korçë



Fig. 19. Photo before and during the restoration works



Fig. 20. Photo after the works

In collaboration with the RDCH Korçë, department of Pogradec, the investor agreed to remove additional volumes in front of the buildings added through the years and to rehabilitate the existing building complex according to the traditional architectural features in Pogradec. Project design and supervision or works was carried out by the RDCH Korçë.

3.3 Census 2020 of the overwintering birds at Lake Ohrid

11,000 birds and 26 types of species were counted in January 2020 in the Protected Landscape and Lake of Pogradec. This census was carried out for the 5th consecutive year, by the Regional Administration of Protected Areas, Korçë and volunteers involved in the project. The counting was conducted simultaneously in the Albanian and Macedonian part of the lake. The results showed a smaller number of wintering birds compared to 2018, caused mainly from the mild winter with no snowfall and frost. The species with the largest presence are: *Fulica atra*, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, *Aythya fuligula*, and *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. It is noted that the birds approach to the shore of the lake, indicating that they feel undisturbed by humans. The census in Albania is part of the international waterbirds census organized by Wetlands International and is in its 54th season.

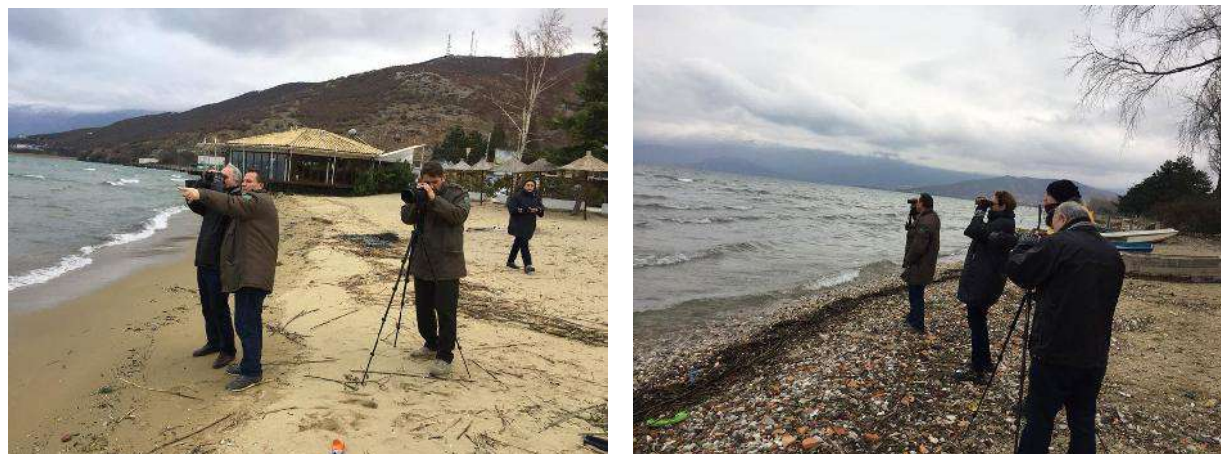


Fig. 21. Photo from the census of waterbirds 2020

3.4 Improvement of touristic services for visitors

3.4.1 Improvement of touristic services in the Early Christian church, Lin

Annually based on Minister's of Culture Instruction on the functioning and responsibilities of cultural heritage and art institutions during the summer touristic season, the regional Directorate takes measures facilitate the service to visitors in all cultural heritage assets in Pogradec. Currently the visits to the Lin church are free of charge. The statistical data are being registered by the Department of Pogradec and are being reported periodically to the DRCH in Korça (table 3.).

Being one of important cultural destinations in the Albanian part of the world heritage property, the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korça is evaluating the statistical data with a purpose of advancing a proposal for a fee entrance ticket for the monument. Regarding the improvement of the touristic services to the visitors, the RDCH Korça plans to prepare during 2020 promotional/information materials. The RDCH Korça is in process of finalizing an agreement with the University of Korça, to provide opportunities for unpaid interships to the

students of the faculty of economics (professional masters in touristic guides) during the touristic season in the Lin church. This collaboration will benefit to both parties, respectively improving the services to the visitors and gaining professional experiences to the students.

Tab. 3 - Number of visitors to the early Christian church of Lin

Statistical data for 2019 - Number of visitors in the Early Christian Church of Lin								
Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No of visitors	160	841	837	1,058	837	220	30	20

3.4.2 The cross border, shoreline tour guide

In the framework of cross border cooperation as well as promoting multiculturalism, the following concept note has been compiled by the Municipality of Pogradec:

“The cross border, shoreline tour guide” a one-day tour (a 12-hour tour), that explores the shoreline intangible and tangible heritage on both sides of Lake Ohrid. Rich in history, an interesting mixture of traditions, a bridging destination between different cultures, a panorama of three cities as regards the landscape, Pogradec, Struga and Ohrid, these three cities will be explored through a well organized tour guide offered by the three respective municipalities in cooperation with the owner of the small ferry “LYHNIDAS”. Starting early in the morning (at 08.00 a.m.) from the Pier in Pogradec, the ferry will take the tourists to different destinations, respectively, Pogradec, Ohrid, Struga, Gali ica National Park, Saint Naum, Tushemisht, Lin and again to Pogradec. The ferry is ecofriendly as the external material is of plastic and it is equipped with filters prevent pollution to the lake.

Services and products provided during the tour are:

- Respective tour guides (an Albanian tour guide for the Albanian part and a tour guide for the North Macedonia part) will provide explanation concerning the tourist attractions on both sides of Lake Ohrid. The tour includes sailing through Lake Ohrid, exploration of the destinations, social interaction and interculturalism, culminating with the reception by the three Mayors in the respective municipalities, where tourists will be given a souvenir by the Mayors, “baptizing” them as “missionaries” for the respective cities to the world.
- In the ferry, tourists can buy snacks and drinks at the small bar; they can buy souvenirs at the small souvenir shop as well as books, leaflets, maps at the tour guide small library.
- As concerns the common meals, based on the Agenda the tourists will have breakfast in Struga, lunch in Gali ica National Park and dinner in Pogradec.

3.4.3 “The coast guard station Lin-Tushemisht”

Pursuant to the “cross border, shoreline Tour Guide” another concept note has been compiled by the Municipality of Pogradec, that is “The coast guard station”. Since the shoreline on both sides of Lake Ohrid is host to a great number of tourists, there is a need as well as a legal requirement the setting of watch towers and the presence of trained staff. In cooperation with the three respective municipalities and the “Red Cross” Organization in North Macedonia (Ohrid), a joint project will be carried out as regards joint efforts in guarding and rescue operations. In meantime training sessions will be offered free of charge to the tourists by the trained guards and paramedics and medicals as regards the First Aid. Except for this, there is the need for the trained

guards as well as para-medicals and medicals at the beach as sports activities will be organized, such as the Balkans Beach Volley championship, the International Triathlon (three sports disciplines in one, respectively, swimming, running, cycling) championship as well as other team sports activities, such as volleyball, water polo, canoeing, etc. Other kinds of activities, such as The International Puppet Theatre Festival, musical performances, folk dance performances and like activities will add to the entertaining programs foreseen in the cross border, joint entertainment Agenda.

3.4.4 “Square of roses” and Odeon amphitheater Project

This project is currently under implementation. It is financed from the budget of the Municipality of Pogradec with a value of 45,000,000 ALL (about 369,000 Euro). It is located in the central area of the city and extends along the lake shore. The project envisages planting of about 7,000 rose plants as well as placing other urban facilities such as: book-shaped benches (illustrated with the covers of publications of two Albanian colossus of literature: Lasgush Poradeci and Mitrush Kuteli, whose statues are located within this square), Lightning and other decorative elements as well as a wooden platform for organizing marriage ceremonies of new couples.

After the completion of this investment, the square will be transformed into “the square of roses and weddings”. An amphitheater shall be constructed next to the “square of roses” and will be used as venue for the organization of different cultural, artistic events. The planting of roses will continue in other parts of the city with the aim of giving Pogradec the name "City of roses".

4 In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

4.1 Ongoing projects

4.1.1 100 Villages Program

The goal of this program, is to coordinate all developmental interventions within the area of the 100 villages, based on an integrated and multi-stakeholders approach. The Program will aim measurable results which would initiate the developmental process of rural areas, through centralised (coordinated and integrated program) public investments, and also by attracting private investors and donors, within the well-defined area of 100 villages. This program does not plan solely to change the selected 100 villages, but to create 100 development gravity points serving as a catalyst for development of agro-tourism and ecotourism in the country. The end result would positively affect socio-economic development, environmental and natural assets, agritourism potential and the traditional and cultural heritage.

The program aims at coordinating the interventions through integrated investments projects within the defined 100 villages’ area through three objectives:

- Improvement of public infrastructure
- Economic Development through diversified economic activities
- Development of human and social capital

Lin, Tushemisht and Gurras villages, in the World Heritage property and Buffer zone, are among the 100 villages list. Annex 8 provides general information about the program, maps and concept ideas for these villages.

The Government of Albania encourages investments to these 100 villages and takes into account with priority the implementation of project proposals that focus in these villages fulfilling the objectives of this program. The major projects described below are proposed within the general framework of 100 villages program.

4.1.2 Waterscape Park Design – Project of Albanian American Development Foundation

Project Phase: The Project Design for Implementation will be completed in July 2020 and after that, ToR's for the implementation of the project will be prepared

Aim: The project envisions a total rehabilitation of the Drilon Park and Tushemisht.

Parts of this project includes some of the key elements:

- Drilon Park
- The promenade along the shore of the lake
- Rehabilitation of the Tushemisht village
- Build a Museum for the Lake
- Solving the sewage problem for the village of Guras and the surrounding areas of Drilon and Tushemisht
- Ring road of Tushemisht (The realization of this ring road diverts the vehicle traffic outside the Drilon and Tushemisht area, by transforming most of this area into a pedestrian area)

The Architectural Competition launched from the Albanian American Development Foundation for the Waterscape Park Design (WPD) of Drilon-Tushemisht has finished on September, 2018. Five internationally recognized companies participated in the competition second phase, presenting their works in front of a jury composed by distinguished international and local architects, urban planners and business developers. The jury communicated that the winner of the competition is the Portuguese Design Studio PROAP SA.

On July, 2019, a technical roundtable was organized by AADF to present the draft design for the Drilon-Tushemisht Waterscape Park Project and discuss the challenges the project is encountering. Present into the roundtables were representatives of AADF, architects hired to design the project, representatives from Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Ministry of Culture representatives National Agency of Territorial Planning, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Pogradec Municipality. The architects made a presentation of the schematic design and the master plan for the entire area of Drilon-Tushemisht project. The project has also been consulted with the local communities through public hearings.

The state party has transmitted to the World Heritage Centre information regarding this project in the competition phase – ToRs in September 2017. The World Heritage Centre with the letter of

20 November 2017 has informed the state party that the information was shared with the advisory bodies for comments and reviews. The state party has not received comments from the advisory bodies regarding the ToRs.

As stated above, the project is now in the phase of the schematic design and can be further consulted in Annex 9. Upon completion of the project and before any decision is taken by the Ministry of Culture, the project shall be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the advisory bodies in compliance with the paragraph 172 of the operational guidelines.

4.1.3 Requalification of Ohrid Lake Waterfront, Pogradec - Tushemisht village

The project proposal is managed by the Albanian Development Fund and funded by KFW aims to develop a masterplan for the whole area and a list of design projects to support the concept of the masterplan. The project activities include preparation of a general masterplan for the area and design projects for a group of identified public interventions along Ohrid Lake shore in Pogradec. The proposed development projects are identified as strategic priority investment projects in the General Local Plan of Pogradeci (under the approval process) and include:

- Requalification of the pine and its surrounding area of 3000 m²
- Requalification of the Oktapodi area of 1900 m²
- Reconstruction of Oktapodi building and turning it in a functional building, be it restaurant or cinema.
- Reconstruction of the Old Hotel of Pogradec (Turizmi i Vjeter)
- Reconstruction of the two bridges over the stream of the city and environmental intervention of the river, at Oktapodi area
- Rehabilitation of the public space of Odium, 2500 m²
- Rehabilitation of the existing promenade (1) of the city - 1,12 km
- Construction of the extension (2) of the existing promenade - 0.8 km
- Construction of the new promenade (3) from the so called “residences site’ to Tushemisht village – 3.1 km²
- Enabling the continuity of the lake shore by demolishing the informal settlements at the entrance of the city and in Tushemisht village
- Providing new parking spaces at the entrance of the city and along the Tushemisht promenade
- Providing new sportive areas
- Construction of the Fishing Museum of Ohrid Lake
- Rehabilitation of existing fountains and construction of spray play area and swimming pools which floats to the shore

The key intervention for this area is the construction of a continuous promenade which starts from the entrance of the city (the pine) to Tushemisht village. The aim is to link the existing promenade of the city, with the deteriorated site of Oktapodi and Tushemisht lake shore. In a larger frame, this project would be an extension the previous investment of Albanian Development Fund for the greenery of the Ohrid Lake waterfront from Lin to the entrance of the city. In support of this intervention, existing public spaces must be improved in terms of design

and landscape and other must be proposed. Despite the physic and aesthetic interventions, the project site must be enriched by social and cultural activities.



Fig. 22. Proposed projects

4.1.4 Requalification of Ohrid Lake Waterfront, Lin village

The project proposal is managed by the Albanian Development Fund and funded by KFW. The main intervention in Lin village is the regeneration of the urban area close to the lakeshore. The facades of the existing buildings need to be renovated according to traditional architecture while the gardens in the lakeshore need to be opened and regenerated in terms of landscape improvement. Meanwhile the whole lakeshore on this side of the village needs to be improved. Also the provision of the public spaces is necessary. The deteriorated existing roads needs to be improved, there are approximately 3km road segments inside the village which need to be rehabilitated and lighted. Linked to public infrastructure the water supply and sewage water system is proposed to be invested under this project. On the western part of the lakeshore the waterfront needs to be rehabilitated. The positive part of this intervention is that this area is not developed yet and this investment is going to orient the future development in the void plots.

Another intervention in the site is the construction of the central space of the village, including the construction of the parking spaces, sportive areas close to the school, the visitor center and one shop for traditional products.

Regarding the cultural offer of Lin village there are proposed three main interventions, one is the restoration of the Church and its entrance, the other one is the Interventions in Lin Mosaic. The construction of the viewpoints, picnic areas, walking paths and the forestation of the hill will be an added value for tourism development in the area. In addition there is need to include also measures for the support of startups, guest houses and other related tourism economic activities, through grant schemes to the local entrepreneurs.

The soft component of the project will include preparation of tourism products in the target area, marketing and promotion, as well as capacity building measures in the local level, to ensure social

and economic sustainability of these investments. The total cost estimation for the investments in Lin village is approx. **9,000,000 Eur** (without the estimation of the water supply system, sewage water system). The following table indicates the full interventions proposed and their respective cost.

No.	Project Name	Estimated Cost Eur
1	Regeneration of the urban area of Lin (<i>Facade, gardens, waterfront regeneration, total cleaning of the lakeshore, public beaches, landscape improvement, construction of promenades and piers, public spaces etc</i>)	5,000,000
2	Rehabilitation of existing roads & lighting including the main and secondary roads of the village (approx. 3 km)	1,050,000
3	Rehabilitation of waterfront/promenade, public beaches	1,000,000
4	Forestry/picnic area/ viewpoints (approx. 8 ha)	16,000
5	Walking paths approx. 2 km	8,000
6	Central space – parking – sportive areas- visitor center - traditional shop	1,000,000
7	Church restoration and landscape improvement	150,000
8	Interventions in Lin Mosaic	250,000
9	View points and picnic areas	200,000
10	Construction of Water supply system for Lin village	NA*
11	Construction of sewage water system for Lin – including the water treatment	NA*
13	Waste management	300,000
Total Euro		8,974,000

Detailed information on the projects described in sections 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 is provided in Annex 10.

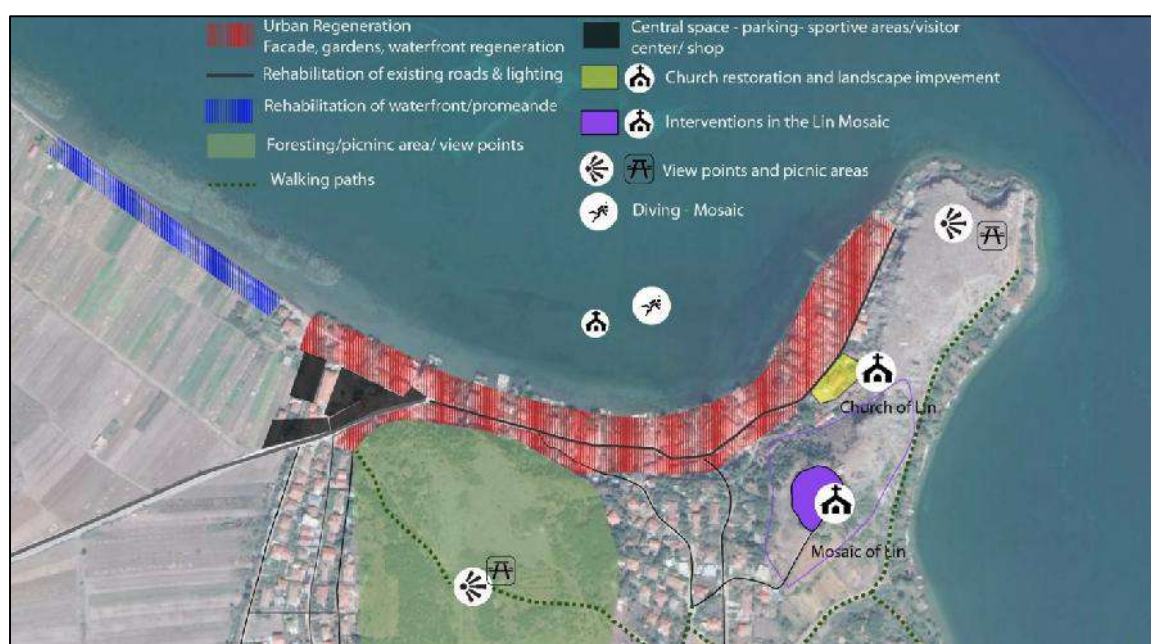


Fig. 23. Proposed projects

4.1.5 Rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Pogradec

The project is in the preparation phase through a collaboration between the Municipality of Pogradec and the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korçë. It consists in restoration of the fasades and cobblestone streets in the Burimas and Naim Frashëri neighbourhoods.

5 Public access to the state of conservation report.

The State Party allows the World Heritage Centre to upload the full State of Conservation Report for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISE
MINISTRIA E TURIZMIT
DHE MJEDISIT

MINISTRY OF TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENT



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISE
MINISTRIA E KULTURËS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

6. Signature of the Authority

MINISTER

Blendi KLOSI



MINISTER

Elva MARGARITI



LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Agenda, Full composition of relevant delegations, Rules of Procedure.

Annex 2 - The official English version of the Law 27/2018 “On Cultural heritage and museums”

Annex 3 - The Analytical program for 2020.

Annex 4 - The General Local plan including Regulation, Maps, ESA and the Strategy for territorial development.

Annex 5 - Map of the areas covered with sewerage system and areas remaining uncovered.

Annex 6 - Example of an administrative measure – decision of the fishing inspectorate for the application of a fine, and registration of illegal fishing economies.

Annex 7 - Monuments’ files (fiches) for the cultural heritage monuments and sites located within the WH site and Buffer zone including information on their state of conservation based on the most recent inspections.

Annex 8 - General information about the 100 villages program, maps and concept ideas for these villages.

Annex 9 - Waterscape Park Design – Project of Albanian American Development Foundation.

Annex 10 - Projects of the Albanian Development Fund – Requalification of Ohrid Lake Waterfront Pogradec, Tushemisht, and Lin.

Annex 11 – Enviromental State Report - 2018