



Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION
REPORTS BY THE STATE PARTIES

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

**WORLD HERITAGE – NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE OHRID
REGION – (Albania/Republic of North Macedonia) (C/N 99 ter)**

**State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region
and report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the
World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77)**

State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77),

Name of World Heritage Property: Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region (Albania/Republic of North Macedonia) (C/N 99)

Date of Inscription: 1979

Expansion: 1980, 2019

Year of minor modifications to the boundaries: 2009

Criteria: (i) (iii) (iv) (vii)

1. Executive Summary of the report

The Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania remain firmly committed to maintain the World Heritage status for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region. This State of Conservation Report for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77) constitutes an update to the joint report by the State Parties Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania on the state of conservation of the properties, with information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring Missions and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Albania for the purpose of jointly managing the properties in 2022.

Republic of North Macedonia

2. Response to the World Heritage Committee Decision:

Decision: 44 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add,**
2. **Recalling Decisions 43 COM 7B.36 and 43 COM 8B.9, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),**
3. **Welcomes the efforts that have been made by both States Parties to start addressing the recommendations of the Committee, and notes in particular the improvements in legal processes and management structures, the temporary suspension of building permits in North Macedonia and the demolition of some illegal structures in both North Macedonia and Albania as well as the creation of the Transboundary Watershed Management Committee and the commitment to initiate a transboundary dialogue on the Struga to Lin section of the European corridor VIII railway project;**

With the aim of strengthening the cross-border cooperation, on April 27, 2022, in Pogradec, Albania, a joint working meeting was held at the political level between the two States Parties, for the purpose of implementing the Agreement with Albania on the management of Lake Ohrid, where the need was determined to reactivate the Transboundary Watershed Management Committee for Lake Ohrid, as a joint management body. At this meeting, the two State Parties reached an agreement to formalize the membership in the Joint Committee for Management of the Ohrid Region, which is a part of the Joint UNESCO National Commissions Declaration signed in July 2021, whereby the Ministers of Environment and Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania undertake to upgrade the membership of the Bilateral Management Committee (Ministers + Mayors). The decision was made to appoint as co-chairpersons of the Bilateral Committee the Ministers of Environment of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania (**Recommendation 3.a of RMM 2020**).

In December 2022, the European Commission adopted the Decision for the entire railway Corridor VIII, including the section Kichevo – Lin, to be part of the Core Network, thus this section now meets the preconditions to be funded from European grants. In the meantime, the EIB (European Investment Bank) and the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) expressed their interest in funding the construction of this section with a remark that a new Feasibility Study is to be prepared for the section Struga – border with the Republic of Albania, including an alternative route, in order to comply with the recommendations given by the UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Republic North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania. This study is tentatively expected to begin in the course of 2024, but under the precondition of approval of the Technical Assistance Grant, which approval is expected to be

given by the end of 2023 (**Recommendation 1 of RMM 2017; Recommendation 1.f of RMM 2020**).

Regarding the section of the state road **A2, Trebenishta – Struga – Border Crossing Qafasan**, please be informed that, pursuant to the Law on determining public interest and nomination of a strategic partner for implementation of the project for the construction of the infrastructural Corridor VIII (*Official Gazette of RNM no. 163/21*), the design and construction has been awarded to the Strategic Partner Bechtel and Enka JV. In compliance with this Law, the Public Enterprise for State Roads has shared with the Strategic Partner all the previous projects, as well as the Decisions of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, so that the future project would be in compliance with the recommendation of the Action plan from the Management Plan – *“Planning the route of highway A2 and measures to mitigate the impacts on the environment and cultural heritage, in synergy with the selection of the railway route Kichevo – Lin”* (**Recommendations 2 and 3 of RMM 2017**).

The PE for State Roads will continue to cooperate with the state authorities and UNESCO regarding the design and construction of all state roads within the boundaries of the region and our offices are available to take part in all future activities with the goal of having a common approach to determining any possibilities for creating a single corridor for the planned transport infrastructure within the region (especially in Struga Valley).

For the section of the state highway under construction, **A2, Kichevo – Ohrid**, regarding the subsections that are located within the boundaries of UNESCO, please be informed that for all the additional designs and constructions related to the highway (additional access roads, additional interchanges, disposal sites or borrow pits), the Public Enterprise for State Roads, within the approval process for Infrastructure Projects, regularly informs and requests opinions from the Commission for Managing the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, and then the PE acts upon the opinions of the Commission. Therefore, we have ensured continuous implementation of the recommendation from the Action Plan of the Management Plan for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region – *“Including the Commission for Managing the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region in all phases of planning infrastructure projects”* (**Recommendation no. 3 of RMM 2017**).

To that end, the Commission gave the positive Opinion no. 68-6025/2 dated 03.06.2022 for the following projects:

- Infrastructure project and Basic project for the **parallel access road Trebenishta – Ohrid with connection to the existing facilities** (for the needs of construction of Road Corridor 8 Deve Bair – Qafasan on the road section Trebenishta – Podmolje – Ohrid, with stationing from km 0+000 to km 10+263.28);
- Infrastructure project and Basic project for the **parallel access road Mesheishta – Trebenishta with connection to the existing facilities** (for the needs of construction of Road Corridor 8 Deve Bair – Qafasan, Road section Pesochani – Trebenishta, km 0+000 to km 12+698.72), from km 8+000 to km 12+698, Cadastre Municipality (CM) Mesheishta, CM Trebenishta and CM Volino, Municipality of Debarca);

- Infrastructure Project and Basic Project for Modifications and amendments to the Infrastructure Project and Basic Project for **Road Corridor 8 highway Deve Bair – Qafasan, section Pesochani – Trebenishta, km 0+000 - km 12+698.72 for the construction of levelled road interchange "Trebenishta", with connection to the state road A3**, Municipality of Debarca;
- Infrastructure project and Basic project for **parallel access road Novo Selo – Botun with connection to the existing facilities** (for the needs of construction of the road corridor 8 Deve Bair – Qafasan on the road section Pesochani – Trebenishta km 0+000 - km 12+698.72, CM Novo Selo, CM Botun, Municipality of Debarca); and
- Infrastructure Project and Basic Project for Modifications and amendments to the Infrastructure Project and Basic Project for **Road Corridor 8 – Deve Bair – Qafasan, road section Trebenishta–Podmolje–Ohrid, with stationing from km 0+000.00 – km 10+263.26 on the road crossing at km 7+356 by recomposing the elements in the interchange "St. Erasmus", CM Orovnik, CM Dolno Lakocherej - vgr, Municipality of Ohrid.**

4. **Considers that while some decisions and missions’ recommendations over the past six years have been addressed, several have only been partly or insufficiently implemented, and a number of them not addressed at all;**

5. **Expresses utmost concern at the findings of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that:**

- a) **Regarding North Macedonia, there has been insufficient action to halt the slow erosion of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in the urban fabric and the wider landscape arising from inappropriate conservation, reconstruction and development, or to re-consider alternative outcomes for major projects relating to railway and road development,**
- b) **Regarding Albania, the acute vulnerabilities that were noted at the time of the extension of the property have not been curtailed and new projects and new developments are being planned that could be highly detrimental to the already compromised lake shore and the Lin peninsula;**

6. **Notes with grave concern the conclusions of the 2020 mission, which considered that tall buildings close to the lake, the poor architectural quality of the built environment (especially in the main towns of Ohrid, Struga, and Pogradec (buffer zone), but also along the coast outside urban centres), and the inappropriate and excessive use of the coastal zone for tourism infrastructure, have all had a highly negative impact on OUV of the property;**

Taking into consideration the vulnerability of the coastal belt of Lake Ohrid due to excessive urbanization, pursuant to the Annual Program for funding the development of urban plans for 2022 of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Spatial Planning Agency has begun the development of the *Urban Plan for areas and buildings of state importance for*

*the protected zone of the Ohrid region coastal belt*¹. In the course of 2022, based on the Decision of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (No. 40-12177/1 of 28.12.2021), the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre prepared an updated geodetic base for the Urban Plan for areas and buildings of state importance for the protected zone of the Ohrid region coastal belt and this geodetic base has been submitted to the Spatial Planning Agency for further action for the needs of the preparation of the Urban Plan for the Coast of Lake Ohrid (number 0814-8096/1 dated 26.05.2022). The UN team, particularly UNESCO, UNEP and UNDP, have asserted their willingness to assist in the preparation of the Feasibility Study for the urban plan of the coastal zone of Lake Ohrid. To that end, a team of international and domestic experts has been appointed to prepare the said Feasibility Study, and the main task of the team will be to prepare the Feasibility Study, based on their independent expert opinion. According to the agreement, the expert team is expected to work on the preparation of the Feasibility Study in the period 01.01.2023 – 31.07.2023² (**Recommendation 7 of RMM 2017**).

Considering the excessive and uncontrolled urbanization of the Ohrid Lake coast, as well as the procedure initiated for the development of the Urban Plan for areas and buildings of state importance for the protected zone of the coastal belt in the Ohrid region, until the adoption of the Plan for the Ohrid Lake coast, the Municipality of Ohrid shall not adopt any urban documentation for beaches and shall not issue any permits for urban beach equipment.

Furthermore, on 22.12.2022, the Council of the Municipality of Ohrid adopted the “*Decision on the method of implementing the existing urban plans and urban planning documents and adopting new urban plans and urban projects, as well as on the manner of conducting the procedures for determining the legal status of illegally built structures*” (no. 08-17370/61 dated 22.12.2022, Official Gazette no. 14 dated 23.12.2022). Pursuant to the existing legislation in the Republic of North Macedonia, the Council of the Municipality of Ohrid has been adopting these Decisions since 2019 (noted in the Progress Reports submitted by the State Party the Republic of North Macedonia to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, No. 35-584/6 dated 31.01.2019, no. 35-584/6 dated 31.01.2020, no. 35-1663/14 dated 25.02.2021 and no. 35-484/6 dated 17.02.2022) (**Recommendation 6 of RMM 2017; Recommendation 1.g from RMM 2020**).

Annex 1: Decision of the Municipality of Ohrid

¹ Some of the activities implemented in the preparatory phase for the elaboration of the Urban plan have been indicated in the **State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77)**, (no. 35-484/6 dated 17.02.2022, submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre).

² The team will be led by an international expert, Mrs. Jane Thompson, supported by the network „Insteadheritage“ (insteadheritage.com), including a GIS mapping expert, as well as a national expert team comprising: an expert on nature and biodiversity – Zlatko Lefkov, Phd, and Slavcho Hristovski, PhD, social-economic expert – Dancho Uzunov, PhD, and an urban planning expert.

Based on the Annual Work Program in the Construction Land Development Program, the Department for Utility Activities of the Municipality of Ohrid took specific activities by posting a public announcement for hiring a company to remove the illegally built structures on the territory of the Municipality of Ohrid. The decision was adopted to select the economic operator for this purpose and the construction activities for the removal of the illegally built structures are planned to be implemented within the upcoming period, in close correlation with the competent municipal and state institutions, according to a predetermined plan and dynamics (**Recommendation 9 of RMM 2017; Recommendation 2.c of RMM 2020**).

The detailed urban plans for the 19 urban complexes are part of the Development Program for the preparation of urban plans for the territory of the Municipality of Ohrid 2022-2024 financed by the Municipality of Ohrid (no. 08-13561/5 dated 29.12.2021). In the Draft Annual Program for preparation of urban plans for the territory of the Municipality of Ohrid for 2023 (No. 08-16213/59 dated 28.11.2022) 19 complexes have been planned in the point DUP – urban complexes funded by the Government (**Recommendation 7.f RMM 2020**).

Regarding the full revalorization of the cultural heritage of the Ohrid Region, i.e. the development of a *Report on revalorization of the cultural heritage of the Ohrid Region*, the activities are in the final stage (considering the size of the territory and the numerous concentration of cultural and archaeological sites), thus this report is expected to be finalized by mid-2023. In addition, Study for revalorization of the cultural heritage of the Old City Core of Ohrid is being prepared, which will be harmonized with the Management Plan for the natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region. For the purposes of preparation of the said reports, cadastral documents have been purchased in electronic form from the Agency for Cadastre of the Republic of North Macedonia, which are necessary for the preparation of the graphic attachments, as they are an integral part of the Report (**Recommendation 5.e of RMM 2020**).

As an integral part of the development of the Report on revalorization of the cultural heritage of the Ohrid Region, the contact zone has been defined, which will be finalized with the expert teams established by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, and all the activities will be performed in compliance with the recommendations provided in the Management Plan for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region. (**Recommendation 10 of RMM 2017**).

The valorisation and revalorisation of individual cultural sites is conducted in accordance with the Annual Program of the NI Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture and Museum-Ohrid, and up to now 80% of the Reports on the valorisation and revalorization of the objects that are and should be protected within the boundaries of the Ohrid region. The preparation of the Protection and conservation bases in the process of spatial and urban planning is in strict compliance with the provisions of the "**Management Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region with Action Plan 2020-2029**" (*Official Gazette No.*

45/2020), with strict ban on consolidating multiple cadastral plots into a single cadastral plot with the goal of obtaining larger dimensions for construction.

When issuing construction permits, measures are implemented for having greater control during the implementation of urban plans, i.e. until the adoption of the new detailed urban plans for the Ohrid region, which will be in compliance with the Management Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Ohrid Region, protection and conservation conditions have been issued that list the permitted and prohibited activities within the protected region.

The implementation of construction and infrastructure activities is under continuous control through archaeological research, i.e. archaeological supervision by experts from the NI Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture and Museum-Ohrid, in accordance with the current legal regulation for protection of cultural heritage (**Recommendation 19 of RMM 2017**).

The Municipality of Ohrid, with the aim of improving the situation with the infrastructure in the Old City Core of Ohrid, through the Department for Utility Activities, Traffic and Streets, undertook a series of specific measures in 2022 for the complete paving and reconstruction of the streets and paths in the Old City Core of Ohrid that lead to significant archaeological and cultural-historical sites.

Within these activities, the authentic paving stones specific for this part of the city are kept, while the damaged stones are replaced with elements specific for the old part of the city, in line with the recommendations of the institutions competent for the preservation. Moreover, a new pedestrian recreational access path has been built immediately in front of the Upper Gate (entrance to the Old City Core), thus raising the safety of tourists and citizens.

7. Takes note of the ongoing process for the proclamation of Lake Ohrid as a Monument of Nature in North Macedonia, including the development of a Valorization study, as well as a preliminary decision to declare the Studenčišča Marsh a nature park, and requests the State Party of North Macedonia to ensure that these processes are fully integrated with other relevant management and planning processes and are aimed at strengthening the overall management of the property, including through the establishment of functioning management structures;

In accordance with the Law on Nature Protection, in 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) prepared the **Draft Law Declaring the Studenčišča Marsh as a protected area in category IV – Nature Park**, which is in the parliamentary procedure for its adoption. Three protection zones have been defined in the Draft Law: zone of strict protection, zone of active management and zone of sustainable use. The Draft Law stipulates that the Management Plan for the Protected Area Studenčišča Marsh should be prepared within one year of the adoption of the Law on Declaring the Studenčišča Marsh as a protected area, and it shall be adopted by the entity that will have the right to manage the protected area. Pursuant to the Law on Nature Protection, the *Decision on temporary protection of Studenčišča Marsh* came into force on

19.06.2021, and will remain to be valid until the adoption of the Law on Declaring the Studenčišča Marsh as a Nature Park, which means stopping the implementation of the Urban Plan for UB 17.1 in accordance with the GUP of Ohrid, which includes Studenčišča Marsh (**Recommendation 2.i of RMM 2020**).

The MEPP is currently administering the procedures for declaring *Ohrid Lake as a protected area in category III – Natural monument* and declaring *Belchishko Marsh as a protected area in category IV – Nature Park*.

The Republic of North Macedonia has informed the UNESCO World Heritage Centre about the process of preparing the **Study for the revalorization of Lake Ohrid**³ and the **Draft Management Plan for Lake Ohrid** for the period 2022-2031, prepared in cooperation of the MEPP with UNEP and IUCN (ECARO) Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as for the **Decision on declaring the Studenčišča Marsh as a Nature Park**⁴. Both the *Study for the valorisation of Studenčišča Marsh* and the *Draft Law on Declaring the Studenčišča Marsh as a Nature Park* include the proposal that the Municipality of Ohrid should have the right to manage the protected area.

For the inscription of Ohrid Lake and the Studenčišča Marsh on the Ramsar list, the Republic of North Macedonia notified the World Heritage Centre with additional information to the 2021 Progress Report (no. 35-3917/5 dated 01.06.2021) (**Recommendation 5.a of RMM 2020**).

Annex: Draft Management Plan for Ohrid Lake for the period 2022-2031.

With the adoption of the *Decision on the method of implementing the existing urban plans...*⁵, the urban plans, the urban planning and project documentations that were adopted prior to the entry into force of the Management Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Ohrid Region (2020-2029), will be applied and implemented in accordance with the Management Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Ohrid Region (2020-2029). Thus, the idea to build a marina in the vicinity of Studenčišča Marsh has been abandoned, for the purpose of coming into compliance with the Management Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Ohrid Region with Action Plan (*Official Gazette of RNM no. 45/20*), which defines that “*a strong threat to the values of the lake are the plans of the municipality of Ohrid for construction of*

³ In September 2021, the Study for the valorisation of Lake Ohrid was approved and voted for by the Council of the Municipality of Ohrid.

⁴ **State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77)**, (no. 35-484/6 dated 17.02.2022).

⁵ “*Decision on the method of implementing the existing urban plans and urban planning documents and adopting new urban plans and urban projects, as well as on the manner of conducting the procedures for determining the legal status of illegally built structures*” (no. 08-17370/61 dated 22.12.2022, *Official Gazette no. 14 dated 23.12.2022*), enclosed as Annex 1.

a marina in the area of Studenčišča Marsh.” The Spatial Planning Agency is in the process of creating an *Urban Plan for areas and buildings of state importance for the protected zone of the coastal belt of the Ohrid Region*, for which a *Feasibility Study* will be prepared, where the possibility should be considered to plan the construction of a marina on the Ohrid coast, which would not be a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region (**Recommendation 1.a RMM 2020**).

8. Notes with concern that in spite of recent initiatives, the management system appears still not to be fully mandated to maintain OUV due to conflicting priorities, poor implementation of the legal framework and little involvement of civil society, all of which have combined to fragment the management system;

In the course of 2022, the new composition of the Commission for Managing the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, consistently and with undiminished intensity, exercised its competences in monitoring and conducting the implementation of the Management Plan for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, as well as monitoring of the status of the natural and cultural heritage in the region. Pursuant to the Law on the Management of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 75/10*), the municipalities are obliged to submit the urban plans for an opinion to the Commission for the Managing the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region prior to starting the procedure for public debate and public presentation.

In the ongoing year 2022, the Commission held 14 sessions where it reviewed 105 cases from the domain of its competences (draft urban plans and documentation that should be harmonized with the Management Plan, the state of the natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region, reports from civil associations regarding activities in the region, etc.). The capacity of the Managing Commission has been strengthened by a professional team composed of prominent experts, established by the Ministry of Culture (**Recommendation 3.d of RMM 2020**). The regular attendance by the representatives of civil associations at the sessions of the Commission has led to improvements in monitoring the states of the natural and cultural heritage in the Ohrid region and these civil associations significantly contribute in detecting and finding solutions for tackling any activities that adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Region (**Recommendation 11 of RMM 2020, Recommendation 8.a of RMM 2020**).

9. Also considers that halting and reversing the degradation that is now facing the property, which reflects the cumulative impact of inappropriate changes and lack of conservation over many years, will take considerable concerted efforts over a long timespan, and that, while the immediate actions to halt certain activities are welcomed, these are insufficient and can only be seen as the beginning of a much longer integrated and strategic process, which remains to be defined;

The project for the restoration and diversion of the riverbed of Sateska River is one of the most complex projects and constitutes one of the key activities for increasing the region's resilience to climate-induced risks of flooding. Restoring and redirecting the riverbed of Sateska river to its natural course would finally solve the environmental problem of the influence of the current riverbed and estuary of Sateska river into Lake Ohrid, which is noted as a key problem in the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region. The phased projects began in 2021 and they have continued to be implemented, thus far the riverbed has been completely cleaned of low-stemmed vegetation and construction activities have been carried out to regulate the riverbed. The construction of the precipitator has also been completely finished and it is expected that in the following months, according to the dynamics of the activities, the overall restoration of the separation structure and replacement and complete automatic upgrade of the existing sluice gates will be carried out.⁶



In the month of August, the MEPP issued the water management consent for the restoration and diversion of the riverbed of Sateska river to its natural course. The restoration of the riverbed of Sateska river and its diversion to its natural course is being implemented through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and the Municipality of Debarca, as part of the regional project for integrated climate-resilient management of the risks of floods in the Drim Basin, financed by the Adaptation Fund. The activities are planned to be completed in late March 2023.

⁶ The data on the launch of the activities are included in the State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77), (no. 35-484/6 dated 17.02.2022, submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre).

The activities of JSC ESM for the future period are in full compliance with this project and they create conditions for easier implementation of the Project for diverting Sateska River into the Black Drin River. AD ESM Skopje during 2021-2022 carried out the cleaning of sediment in the area of the outflow of the Black Drin river from Lake Ohrid and in the riverbed of Black Drin river in the urban part of Struga (approximately 1 km), cleaning of sediment on part of the riverbed in the non-urban area, and a Project for the complete cleaning of the sediment from the riverbed of the Black Drin river to the Globočica reservoir (approximately 9 km) is in the development phase, and it should be implemented in the upcoming period (**Recommendation 15 of RMM 2017; Recommendation 7.e of RMM 2020**).

JSC ESM Skopje, subsidiary HES Crn Drim Struga, has taken a series of measures to stabilize the water level of Lake Ohrid and to regularly monitor and control the discharge of lake water into the Black Drin river. The measuring of the level of Lake Ohrid and the discharging of water from Lake Ohrid into the Black Drin river is an established practice and such measurements have been carried out daily in the past period. To be specific, the level of the elevation of Lake Ohrid is measured continuously twice a day at a specific measuring point on the shore of Lake Ohrid. To improve the monitoring of the level of Lake Ohrid, JSC ESM Skopje in 2021 set up an automated hydrometrological station for measuring the level of Lake Ohrid, and for the purpose of transparency, the results of this station are shown on displays placed in a public place at a designated location in the city of Struga.

Parallel to the measurements of the water level of Lake Ohrid conducted by JSC ESM, such measurements in a different location are conducted by the Hydrometeorological Service – Skopje.

The discharging of water from Lake Ohrid is regulated by JSC ESM, subsidiary HES Crn Drim from Struga, according to the conditions provided in the water management permit for using water for production of electricity, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia on 25.09.2017 under number UP1-1/-21/16. Pursuant to this water management permit, the levels of Ohrid Lake should remain within the limits from 693.10 to 693.75 masl, and in exceptional cases (once-in-100-years precipitation) up to 694.00 masl. The average flow in the previous period since putting into operation HEC Globočica has been 18.35 m³/s. The maximum flow in the previous period has been around 80 m³/s.

The discharging of water from Ohrid Lake for the needs of electricity production is regulated by monitoring the natural oscillations of Ohrid Lake by increasing and decreasing the opening of the temporary wooden regulation facility by placing or removing elements. In the event of unusually high volumes of water, the discharging of water from Ohrid Lake is regulated in coordination with the Crisis Management Centre and the Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of North Macedonia.

In the course of 2022, the level of elevation of Lake Ohrid remained within the permissible limits in the water management permit from the level of 693.15 to 693.68 masl (**Recommendation 5.f of RMM 2020**).

For the purpose of controlling the fish stocking, i.e. the introduction of allochthonous species into Lake Ohrid - control of the restocking of the Lake, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management has started the procedure for publishing a new fishing base for the fishing waters of Lake Ohrid for the next six-year period (the current fishing base is valid for the period 2017- 2022). The fishing base, pursuant to the Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture, was prepared by an authorized institution, and represents an expert study on the manner of using the fish, and it regulates, among other things, the protection of biodiversity and the manner of stocking fishing waters (**Recommendation 12 of RMM 2017**).

Regarding the necessity to close the Bukovo landfill (**Recommendation 16 of RMM 2017; Recommendation 2.b of RMM 2020**), the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), provided funding for the Project for the establishment of a regional waste management system in the Southeast, Vardar, Pelagonia, Southwest and Polog regions, with a loan in the amount of 55 million euros. By providing these funds, the MEPP will establish the system in the Southwest region and the activities will include the closing of all non-standard landfills in the region (including Bukovo, Maucker, Struga, etc.) (**Recommendation 2.b of RMM 2020**).⁷

The restoration of the collector system and its full functioning has continued throughout 2022 (**Recommendation 13 of RMM 2017; Recommendation 7.a of RMM 2020**). The activities to establish the priorities for rehabilitation of the dilapidated collector system for the protection of Lake Ohrid started in December 2019 with funds provided by the Government of the RNM (EUR 4.2 million), when the planned items were fully completed, and derived from the established priorities. Surveying, high-pressure cleaning and sediment removal were carried out at four locations with a total length of 3 km, which were the most critical places during that period and from where there was spillage of sewage from the system and its direct entry into the waters of the lake. Afterwards, pipe-in-pipe was inserted in the same positions with the latest CIPP method without excavation. 20 sets of screw pumps at the pre-pumping stations were repaired, so that they are currently at maximum utilization capacity. The secondary network was cleaned in the Municipalities of Ohrid 8 km and Struga 6 km, which enabled normal flow of the secondary network. Also, 7 manholes located directly in the waters of the lake at the Lagadin location, from

⁷ The expression of interest in funding the Project for establishment of a regional waste management system in the South-East, Vardar, Pelagonia, South-West and Polog regions was noted in **State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77)**, (no. 35-484/6 dated 17.02.2022, submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre).

which sewage water leaked into the lake waters, have been treated and coated with waterproof materials, as well as:

- complete surveying of the pipeline thus fully determining the positions where the system should be continued to be restored and revitalized,
- high-pressure cleaning of the pipeline in critical places determined through previously conducted surveying,
- purchased and installed new submersible pumps with their own cutters at the pumping stations in Eleshec, Metropol and Kalishta,
- ongoing repair and revitalization of the sewage treatment in Lozhani which is currently operating at 90% of capacity,
- daily analyses before discharging the purified water into the Black Drim recipient that meet the legal standards for discharge into the recipient.

Frequency regulators are currently being installed in the pre-pumping stations Ohrid 1, Ohrid 2, Daljan, Podmolje and Struga 3, which will enable full automation of the operation of pre-pumping stations.

In 2021, through a joint application with IDOM – a consulting-design company from Spain, grant funds were received from the Embassy of Spain for the development of projects for the complete coverage of the Macedonian side of Lake Ohrid, i.e. development of projects for mini water treatment plants in Ljubanishta, Trpejca and Radožda, as well as for revision of the existing project for the revitalization and expansion of the treatment plant in Ložani.

To fund the activities in 2023 for the rehabilitation and repair of the collector system for the protection of Lake Ohrid, for PE Collector System – Ohrid, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in the budget for 2023 allocated funds in the amount of MKD 40,400,000.00 (653,000 euros).

The Public Scientific Institution (PSI) Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid is actively involved in the UNESCO agenda aimed at preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid Region. The PSI Hydrobiological Institute, again successfully implemented the seasonal monitoring campaigns in order to review the state of natural heritage in the Ohrid Lake and its coastal waters. The results of monitoring activities in the Lake were focused on the littoral, which is also the most vulnerable part of the Lake ecosystem (in line with the available finances). According to the results, the quality of water in the littoral of the Lake and beyond, in the so-called "hot spots" that correspond to the mouths of the tributaries and larger settlements, is one class lower compared to the pelagic, based on the values of the physical and chemical parameters, as well and on the state of the biological components (microbiological, phytoplankton, zooplankton, macrozoobenthos, macrophytic vegetation). Therefore, the PSI Hydrobiological Institute draws attention to the importance of establishing regular and long-term monitoring while simultaneously taking specific

activities to mediate or completely eliminate the factors that cause this state of the littoral, and were also part of the recommendations of the UNESCO Reactive Mission.

As a continuation of these activities, in 2022 a project was implemented under the title: “*Assessment of water quality in the river Black Drim, prior to taking activities to divert the river Sateska to its old riverbed*”, fully funded by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. The goal of the project was, based on the tested physical – chemical and biological parameters, to determine the quality of water from the river Black Drim as part of the Lake Ohrid Watershed. The obtained results contributed to registering potential polluters and the degree of anthropogenic effect, which gave rise to proposals for measures to eliminate, mitigate, or at least minimize the adverse effects, in order to protect the biodiversity and sustain the development of the aquatic ecosystem.

The PSI Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid is one of 13 international partners from the EU and Western Balkans countries involved in the project “*Strengthening the educational capacities for handling the risk from invasive aquatic species in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Montenegro/RiskMan)*” funded by the European Union through the program ERASMUS+CBHE 2020, whose main purpose was, within the higher-education system, to strengthen the knowledge and capacities for assessment of the risk from the introduction of allochthonous species and to stimulate research and cooperation in the management of non-autochthonic species in the Western Balkans region.

The most important aspect of the current activities of the PSI Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, and in the context of preserving the biodiversity of the Lake, is naturally the one related to artificial spawning of the Ohrid trout. Namely, after a period of 3 years, the PSI Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid will again, in the period January-February 2023, with full financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, continue to conduct the artificial spawning, and thus, as before, will continue with its efforts to preserve and improve the fish stock of the Ohrid trout.

The PSI Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid is also involved in some of the research activities planned within the project “*Ecosystem services and biodiversity of Saint Naum*”. The springs, with their immediate surroundings, are noted for their immense socio-economic, spiritual, cultural and scientific significance and constitute one of the most important tourist destinations in the Republic of North Macedonia and beyond. They are of essential importance for the water balance of Lake Ohrid and are known as a hotspot of endemism, thus imposing the need to conduct an integral study of their biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project activities will provide new and relevant data that will reflect the current state of the biological diversity and the ecosystem service as a foundation for establishing long-term management and monitoring implemented by the project partners (**Recommendation 17 of RMM 2017**).

Due to objective circumstances, the PSI Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid could not establish active or practical cross-border cooperation with similar institutions from Albania, however, it continues to actively exchange experiences with the institutions with whom the Institute has taken

actions, through joint projects, in the domain of preservation of the natural heritage of Lake Ohrid in the past period.

For the purpose of conducting and carrying out certain activities from the area of monitoring the biological diversity, the Public Institution Galichica National Park in the past period established active **cross-border cooperation** with similar institutions from Albania. Furthermore, PI Galichica National Park continued with its active exchange of experiences with institutions with whom it took actions within joint projects in the domain of natural heritage (**Recommendation 12 of RMM 2017**).

The growing anthropogenic pressure caused by the increasing frequency of tourists, the increasing amount of wastewaters from businesses and, naturally, incompliance with the legal regulations for sustainable management of the St. Naum springs are the reasons for the PI National Park Galichica to prepare a *Draft Special Plan for the Management of the St. Naum site*, which is being prepared in cooperation with all competent institutions. The first working version of the Special Plan has been prepared and shared with all the stakeholders for comments and observations that will be ultimately incorporated into the final version.

In the past period, PI National Park Galichica managed to successfully carry out the seasonal monitoring campaigns in order to gain insight into the state of the natural heritage in the National Park Galichica. The monitoring of biodiversity is conducted pursuant to the *Long-term program for monitoring biodiversity of the National Park Galichica*, which is an integral part of the Management Plan for the National Park Galichica 2021-2030⁸. Consequently, through the preparation and implementation of the Annual Programmes for nature protection by the PI National Park Galichica, the monitoring is carried out every year. The results of the monitoring activities indicate that the biodiversity in the National Park Galichica is still considered preserved and no drastic changes have been identified in relation to the species and/or habitats on the territory of the park. Regardless of the obtained results, PI National Park Galichica continues to draw attention to the importance of establishing regular long-term monitoring while simultaneously taking specific actions to mitigate or completely eliminate the factors with potential adverse effect on the species and habitats, as this is also included in the recommendations of the UNESCO Reactive Missions.

With the help of an EU-funded project, the endangered species of red deer returned to the National Park Galichica. The preservation of biodiversity with the return of red deer, as an

⁸ Management Plan for the National Park Galichica 2021-2030 (Recommendation 3g of RMM 2020) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Management Plan were submitted for review to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (correspondence no. 35-6005/2 dated 07.05.2021). Considering the fact that no opinion was received upon the submitted materials, they were adopted pursuant to the legal procedure by the Management Board of PI National Park Galichica (Decision no. 02-558/3 dated 11.08.2021). The Decision is an integral part of the Progress Report no. 35-484/6 dated 17.02.2021.

autochthonous herbivore species in Galichica began with the reception of EU grant in 2018, which was used to establish a red-deer breeding centre on an area of nearly 90 hectares. The first 30 heads of red deer arrived in late 2019 and early 2020. Today, the herd in the breeding centre has around 100 units.

The necessary infrastructure has been built within the breeding centre – food storage facility used to continuously feed the deer throughout the year, around ten feeders, a large puddle/waterhole and six two-ton water storage tanks, as well as a room for the employees working in the breeding centre. The breeding centre also has a small internally fenced-off area needed to separate the units that are to be released into the wild from this area, as well as full video-surveillance coverage. Due to the fact that Galichica is a dry mountain, there is a danger that the deer may go to the lake for water, which could endanger their survival, but also cause traffic issues when crossing the road. Due to this, a project is being implemented to provide two water pumps that would ensure sufficient water to fill 18 waterholes located at higher sections of Galichica, thus lowering the possibility that the deer would climb down to lower altitudes. Moreover, the greater numbers of deer in nature and the better opportunities to observe them in the wild will significantly increase the appeal and the number of visitors to the National Park Galichica (**Recommendation 7.h of RMM 2020**).

In addition, the Public Institution Galichica National Park actively cooperated with and supported other institutions who are obligated with the Action Plan and the UNESCO recommendations. To that end, PI GNP prepared an inventory of illegally built structures on the territory of National Park Galichica and submitted the inventory to the Municipality of Ohrid and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The PI Galichica National Park also prepared a list of structures with priority for removal on the Park territory (**Recommendation 2.d of RMM 2020**).

Pursuant to the Law on the Protection of Nature and the Law on the Management of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region in the period 2020-2022, the nature protection inspector carried out the following:

- 10 regular planned inspections during which Record of Findings were prepared;
- 13 extraordinary inspection supervisions with preparation of Record of Findings, from which 4 criminal proceedings were initiated before the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office Struga and Basic Public Prosecutor's Office Ohrid;
- 3 control inspections during which 2 Decisions on mandatory action were issued (Captains of Port Ohrid and Municipality of Ohrid) where irregularities were determined in terms of destruction of natural heritage and its use in inappropriate manner.

As specified in the **State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region** (no. 35-484/6 dated 17.02.2022, submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre), the Municipality of Ohrid prepared the **Draft Strategy for Tourism Development 2020 – 2025**. The **Draft Strategy** was reviewed by the Management Commission, which provided remarks regarding its compliance with the objectives for preservation of the natural and cultural

heritage, while noting the need to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In the past period, the Strategic Environmental Assessment was developed, and based on the SEA, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning gave a positive evaluation regarding the effects on the environment, or as the Ministry specified “based on the implemented procedure for strategic environmental assessment and the implemented public participation procedure, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has no remarks and hereby gives a positive opinion on the scope and content of the document.” After the document is finalized, it will be submitted for review to the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies.

The Municipality of Ohrid, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and the Commission for Managing the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, has proceeded with the installation of info panels with the UNESCO World Heritage logo, at the three locations specified with the current plan.

10. Further considers that this legacy of erosion of the attributes over decades, combined with the continuing impact of the development in both parts of the transboundary property, represent actual and potential danger to the property according to Paragraphs 179 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

11. Urges the two States Parties to develop a detailed Strategic Recovery Plan with an associated phased action plan that sets out clearly defined aims and outcomes to mitigate threats to OUV with a set of agreed actions including a timeframe both in the short and longer term as well as a phased action plan, based on the full recommendations of the 2020 mission, and which would provide an overarching transboundary political and institutional framework for addressing the severe and multiple threats facing to the property; and to present the Strategic Recovery Plan to the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre in February 2023;

To meet the obligations arising from the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 44.SOM 7B.77 (Fuzhou, China 2021), (**Recommendation 3.h of RMM 2020**), intensive work was performed in 2022 on the preparation of the Strategic Recovery Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, which was prepared by a joint cross-border expert team composed of an Expert Working Group established by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (No. 40-11368/1 dated 09.11.2021) and an inter-institutional expert team from the Republic of Albania. Both State Parties (the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Government of the Republic of Albania), through their respective state institutions, established the Expert Working Groups and an Inter-Institutional Expert Team composed of experts on cultural and natural heritage, who prepared the strategic document within the specified timeline. The document contains recovery measures and instructions for activities to be taken by all stakeholders who are directly or indirectly involved in the preservation and/or management of the property. The plan is for the measures specified in the Strategic Plan to be

implemented for the purpose of preventing further degradation of Ohrid Region values and attributes, thus bringing the property to the desired state of preservation and ensuring efficient building of an integrated approach in preserving its outstanding universal value.

Annex: *Strategic Recovery Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region with Action Plan (2023-2030).*

12. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022 a progress report, and by 1 February 2023, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property, including a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session, with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of the potential or ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

* * *

3. Acting in accordance with the paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia requested an appropriate mission from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in relation to the intent to reconstruct the hotel “Palace” in Ohrid.

In order to determine the state of “**Hotel Palace – Ohrid**”, where construction activities have been planned, and to prepare a proposal for further actions, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia requested an appropriate mission from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in December 2021. The Mission was conducted by ICOMOS experts (Kari Avellan, Finland and Job Roos, the Netherlands) in the period 17 – 20 April 2022, where they had numerous meetings with experts and competent authorities.

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia thus expresses its full commitment to properly manage the Ohrid Region. The hotel complex is out of commission and has been deserted for over 20 years, which is the reason for requesting this Advisory Mission. Since there are many conflicting arguments and interests regarding the future of the hotel, the assistance of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission was requested in order to find the best possible solution for the hotel, without jeopardizing the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the world heritage.

Following the submission of the Report of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission noting the current state and the possibilities for future treatment of the facility, no activities are underway on the hotel complex *Palace* in Ohrid. In the future, the Republic of North Macedonia will remain fully dedicated to reducing any activities that would be contrary to the indications and recommendations of the advisory missions and the previous reactive monitoring missions with the goal of preserving the Outstanding Universal Value and the world heritage status of the Ohrid Region. The report on the conducted mission, including the conclusions is available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/documents/>

* * *

State of conservation report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.77) (for Republic of North Macedonia) was adopted by the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia at its 122th session, held on 01.02.2023 (no. 41-1312/2).

* * *

Public access to the State of Conservation Report.

4. The State Party Republic of North Macedonia gives consent for this State of Conservation Report of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region to be published on the web page of UNESCO World Heritage Centre without annexes.



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENT**

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

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

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE OHRID REGION
(Albania/Republic of North Macedonia) (C/N 99 ter)

January 2023

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1 Executive Summary

The report for the State of Conservation of “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” 99 ter., was prepared in response to decision 44 COM 7B.77, and in compliance to the format for submission of SoC reports in the Operational Guidelines 2021, Annex 13.

In chapter 2, this report focuses on the points of the most recent Decision of World Heritage Committee. Attached to the SoC Report is the Final version of the *Draft Strategic Recovery Plan* jointly prepared by the technical groups of the two State Parties is also provided.

Chapter 3 describes maintenance works and restoration works and project undertaken by the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage - RDCH Korçë for the protection, promotion of both natural and cultural values and improvement of touristic services.

Chapter 4 lists three development projects respectively funded by AADF, Municipality of Pogradec and a private investor, namely “Waterscape Park Design Drilon Tushemisht”, “Requalification of the historic centre and buffer area of Pogradec” and “A touristic complex of one-storey-wooden-houses”. Information and technical details of these projects were provided in the Annexes of the SoC Report submitted by the State Party of Albania in February 2022.

Chapter 5 outlines the confirmation of the State Party for the public access of this SoC Report.

Chapter 6 contains the official signatures of the representatives of the State Party of Albania, namely the Minister of Tourism and Environment and the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Albania.

2 Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 44 COM 7B.77

2.1 **Welcomes the efforts that have been made by both States Parties to start addressing the recommendations of the Committee, and notes in particular the improvements in legal processes and management structures, the temporary suspension of building permits in North Macedonia and the demolition of some illegal structures in both North Macedonia and Albania as well as the creation of the Transboundary Watershed Management Committee and the commitment to initiate a transboundary dialogue on the Struga to Lin section of the European corridor VIII railway project;**

During 2022 two transboundary meetings were held in Pogradec, Albania and in Ohrid, North Macedonia. The first high-level meeting of the Joint Committee of the Watershed Management of Ohrid Lake Region held in Pogradec on 27 April 2022. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, in coordination with Pogradec Municipality, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Culture, and counterpart responsible institutions of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The purpose of the meeting was to reconstitute the composition of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee (existing) to cover issues related to the protection of world heritage property. The committee relies on the previous membership (ministries responsible for the environment, water, agriculture, etc.) to which the Ministry of Culture was added as a novelty in the framework of world heritage status recognized also to the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid. The meeting, moderated by the Municipality of Pogradec confirmed the commitment of both State Parties to continue the close coordination in the framework of the protection of the world's transboundary heritage with the reconstituted Committee as a cross-border body that will have a supervisory and coordinating role in the protection of the universal values of the world heritage property.

Results and Next Steps

- The Ministers responsible for Nature and Culture of the two countries as well as the Mayors of the local governments units of Pogradec, Struga, Ohrid expressed the political will for the reconstitution of the Committee by increasing the level of its representation at the Ministerial level as well as including the respective technical groups from each party.
- The two Ministers responsible for the Environment in the Republic of Albania and Republic of North Macedonia will be the co-chairs of the Committee with a one-year term mandate, shared by rotation.



- The Reports on the state of conservation of the world heritage, submitted respectively by each State Party to the World Heritage Centre during the year 2022, will be shared between the parties.
- A technical level meeting to be held in May 27, 2022 in Ohrid, in order to discuss the draft Strategic Recovery Plan, which is one of the main points of the World Heritage Committee Decision, July 2021.

Credits: MP Demaj

The second meeting, an expert level meeting held in Ohrid on 27 May 2022 brought together experts from national, regional and local institutions from Albania and North Macedonia part of the Watershed Committee of the Lake Ohrid. The purpose of the meeting was the preparation of the Strategic Recovery Plan for the mixed transboundary World Heritage Property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region". The program of the meeting, as well as the list of participants from both countries, are attached in **Annex 1**.

In the meeting, the institutions responsible for the natural and cultural component of both countries shared the work completed so far in the framework of preparation of the draft Strategic Recovery Plan and the methodology used. The presentations of both technical groups concluded in a template strategic plan as well as in a draft methodology for its preparation.

Attached to the SoC Report is the Final version of the Draft of the Strategic Recovery Plan jointly prepared by the technical groups of the two State Parties.



2.2 Considers that while some decisions and missions' recommendations over the past six years have been addressed, several have only been partly or insufficiently implemented, and a number of them not addressed at all;

For the Albanian Part of the Word Heritage Property.

The table in Annex 2 of the State of Conservation Report submitted by the State Party of Albania in February 2022 reported an update of the state of implementation of the RMM's Recommendations in the Albanian part of the Property.

2.3 Expresses utmost concern at the findings of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that:

b) Regarding Albania, the acute vulnerabilities that were noted at the time of the extension of the property have not been curtailed and new projects and new developments are being planned that could be highly detrimental to the already compromised lake shore and the Lin peninsula;

2.3.1 In the Albanian Part of the World Heritage Property:

As reported in the State of Conservation Report submitted by the State Party of Albania in February 2022, following the recommendations of the Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property (in the Albanian Part), the Municipality of Pogradec has built ambushes in the rivers Rrëmenj, Vërdovë as well as in the city, has systematized wastewater in the city and in the Administrative Unit of Buçimas. Cleaning up of the urban waste in the territory, cleaning up of the coastline, cleaning up of the rivers that flow into Pogradec Lake from urban and inert waste are performed regularly.

2.4 Notes with concern that in spite of recent initiatives, the management system appears still not to be fully mandated to maintain OUV due to conflicting priorities, poor implementation of the legal framework and little involvement of civil society, all of which have combined to fragment the management system;

2.4.1 Awareness-raising activities dedicated to the youth in the Albanian Part of the World Heritage Property

Several activities that aim at the involvement and awareness raising of the youth towards cultural heritage values of the world Heritage property and lake Ohrid region, have been organized from the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korça during 2022. The activities are listed as below, and refer to several main educational programs of the Ministry of Culture.

Activities part of the National Programs "Education through culture" and "Friends of Monuments"

"Etno Fest Pogradec"

An activity focused on the folklore, traditions, and customs of Pogradec, Devolli and Kolonja, transmitted from generation to generation. The activity gathered together three areas with ethnographic and cultural values combine with heritage ones.

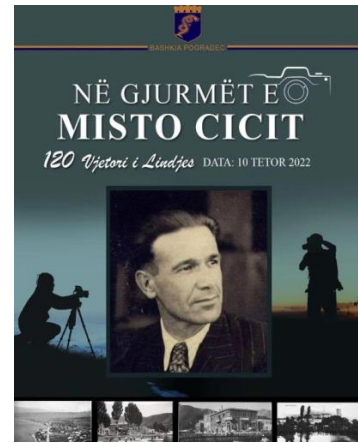


Photo during the activity in the Municipality of Pogradec

In the footsteps of Misto Cici'

New photos of the new town of Pogradec inspired by photos from the "Misto Cici" Photo Gallery Archive.

The students of Pogradec, after visiting the "Misto Cici Photo Library" and exploring the archive of old photos of the city, took photos of the new city, highlighting the changes of the city over the years.



2022 Calendar with sketches from Monuments of Culture for example 'Ura e Golikut', 'Banasa e Vellezerve Icka'

2.5 Also considers that halting and reversing the degradation that is now facing the property, which reflects the cumulative impact of inappropriate changes and lack of conservation over many years, will take considerable concerted efforts over a long timespan, and that, while the immediate actions to halt certain activities are welcomed, these are insufficient and can only be seen as the beginning of a much longer integrated and strategic process, which remains to be defined;

2.5.1 Intervention to improve the previous degradation of the property, from the Municipality of Pogradec

Updated information on Points 3, 6 of the Decision:
Treatment of existing illegal constructions and those in a degraded condition in the city:

1. UNESCO Recommendations on Alarup former dumpsite (landfill)

As regards the former landfill in Alarup, this is part of the program of KfW, which financially supports the landfill of Maliq and KfW will also finance the rehabilitation of the former dumpsite in Alarup.

2. UNESCO Recommendations on Mëmëlisht dumpsite

We are coordinating efforts with National Agency of Natural Resources (AKBN) and the Ministry of Energetics and Infrastructure as regards evading (removal) of the remaining part of the mineral in the dumpsite of Mëmëlisht (Guri i Kuq) to a collection point, which is not harmful to the environment, this in accordance with UNESCO recommendations.

3. UNESCO Recommendations on Treatment of wastewater around the Lake

Sewerage Project for the Administrative Unit Buçimas has ended, thus eliminating discharge of waste water in the streams that pour into the Lake.

4. UNESCO Recommendations on “Drilon” Project

“Drilon” Project was sent to UNESCO in the Consultation Phase, before undertaking the approval procedures by the respective Albanian Institutions. The Project has foreseen eco-friendly interventions.

5. UNESCO Recommendations on General Local Plan

Regarding The General Local Plan, it is expected the signature of the General Local Plan by the Prime Minister. After that, the General Local Plan gain legal power. UNESCO Recommendations concerning the General Local Plan have been taken into consideration.

6. UNESCO Recommendations on Pogradec Castle restoration projects

Concerning Pogradec Castle, A Project is being compiled. This Project will be consulted with UNESCO beforehand.

Updated information on Point 5 / b of the Decision:

Treatment of illegal constructions in Lin village:

Concerning Lin Village, A Project is being compiled, in the framework of the Program “100 Tourist Villages”, financed by KfW. The Project consists in rehabilitation of the buildings, facade, infrastructure, all in accordance with UNESCO Recommendations, and taking up an environmentally-friendly approach. Also, the Project for Gurras Village is being compiled. These two Projects will be consulted with UNESCO beforehand. In the Project there will be defined the interventions (demolishing the illegal buildings). No building permits have been issued in Lin Village by the Municipality of Pogradec. Sewerage Project, financed by KfW, is part of the development project in Lin. As regards the two buildings to be demolished in Lin Village, we are following the procedures for the disqualification of the legalization of these two buildings and their demolition.

Progress of Linn-focused development projects (in line with UNESCO REACTIVE MISSION recommendations):

2.5.2 Intervention to improve the previous degradation of the property, from the Regional Administration of Protected Areas, RAPA Pogradec report

2.6 Urges the two States Parties to develop a detailed Strategic Recovery Plan with an associated phased action plan that sets out clearly defined aims and outcomes to mitigate threats to OUV with a set of agreed actions including a timeframe both in the short and longer term as well as a phased action plan, based on the full recommendations of the 2020 mission, and which would provide an overarching transboundary political and institutional framework for addressing the severe and multiple threats facing to the property; and to present the Strategic Recovery Plan to the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre in February 2023;

As requested by the Decision 44 COM 7B.77, following the high-level and expert meetings held jointly in Pogradec and Ohrid, the Final draft of the Strategic Recovery Plan was jointly prepared by the technical groups of the two State Parties.

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

2.7 Maintenance works during 2022

During 2022, the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage (RDCH), Korça has undertaken maintenance works in the remains and the mosaics of the Early Christian Church at Lin Peninsula and restoration interventions implemented in the buffer area of the World Heritage Property (Table 1 and 2)

No.	Name of monument	Maintenance Periodicity	Responsible Person
Within the World Heritage Property			
1.	The remains and the mosaics of the Early Christian church at Lin	weekly maintenance <i>Cleaning the monument from snow, (in the winter) cleaning the sters that fill with water and ongoing maintenance of the basilica. In the summer months, sulphur and herbicide are applied to the surrounding area. Cleaning of low vegetation On the surface of 2861 m2</i>	Maintenance worker of the Department of Pogradec
2.	The mosaic of Lin	weekly maintenance	Maintenance worker of the Department of Pogradec

Tab. 1 - Maintenance works during 2022

No.	Name of the monument	Designation	Source of funding	Value
Investment within the buffer area of the World Heritage Property				
1.	The house of the Icka brothers, neighborhood of Burimeve	1 st category	State Budget Revitalisation Bonus and private owners	5,172,544 ALL

Tab. 2 - Restauration works during 2022

The restoration of “the house of the Icka brothers” was implemented in the framework of new initiative of the Ministry of Culture "Revitalization Bonus" (RB).

The “Revitalization Bonus”, part of the National Fund for the Care of Material Cultural Heritage was implemented for the first time during 2022. It supports owners / lawful

users of cultural assets that are an integral part of historic urban ensembles, historic centers, and archaeological sites or have cultural property status as separate objects outside these areas. This scheme strengthens the cooperation between the state and the private sector for the preservation of cultural heritage, improving the image of cities and creating conditions for sustainable economic development. The restoration project implemented under the Revitalization Bonus included the restoration of the entire monument and its revitalization into a small hotel.





2.8 Monitoring of Cultural Heritage assets

As reported in the State of Conservation Report submitted by the State Party in January 2000 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 Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage Korça.

Table 1 below describes the periodicity of monitoring of main cultural heritage monuments and sites in the World heritage site and buffer zone.

In **Annex 2** of the SoC Report are provides the Inspection files for each monuments.

No.	Name of monument	Monitoring Periodicity	Responsible Institution
Within the World Heritage Property			
1.	The ruins of the paleochristian church and the mosaics	daily inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
2.	The mosaic of Lin	daily inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
3.	The ruins of the byzantine church near the fishing station	monthly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
4.	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			
5.	The house of the Icka brothers, neighborhood of Burimeve	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
6.	The house of Kucuku brothers, neighborhood of Burimeve	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
7.	The house Lasgush Poradeci, neighborhood of Burimeve	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
8.	The house of Kristaq Puce, neighborhood of Burimeve	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
9.	The house of Rinka Guxho, neighborhood of Burimeve	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
10.	The house of Sandri Qipro, neighborhood of Burimeve	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
11.	The historic center of Pogradec and the regulation for its administration	weekly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
12.	The castle of Pogradec	monthly inspection	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec
13.	The mosaic of Tushemisht	surveys need to be carried out	RDCH Korça Department of Pogradec

*Tab. 3. - Monitoring periodicity of cultural heritage monuments and sites
(WH site and buffer zone)*

2.9 Visitors to the Early Christian Church of Lin

Statistical data for 2022 (summer session)

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Monument- The ruins of the paleochristian church and the mosaics												
Number of visitors	82	61	62	184	663	480	572	1011	564	301	30	33

As reported in the State of Conservation Report submitted in February 2022, the visits to the monument 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.

Being one of the most visited 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.

3 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.

For the Albanian part of the World Heritage Property:

In the State of Conservation Report submitted by the State Party of Albania in February 2022 were provided information on three ongoing projects as follows

- The Drilon – Tushemisht Waterscape Park Project. In addition, attached in Annex 3 Detailed Plan for the Area of National Importance Drilon-Tushemisht and the three listed subproject of the Waterscape Park Project were provided.
- "Restoration and Urban Requalification of the Historical Center and Protected Area of Pogradec". Further details on this project were provided in Annex 4 of the SoC Report submitted in February 2022.
- "Touristic Complex with one storey small wooden houses, National Road Pogradec-Tushemisht, Buçimas, details of which were presented in Annex 5 of the SoC Report submitted in February 2022.

4 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>).

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Agenda and List of Participants of the Joint Expert Meeting on Strategic Recovery Plan held in Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia.

Annex 2 - Inspection files for the cultural monuments Within the World Heritage Property and Buffer area (Albanian Part of the Property).

Annex 3 - Activities undertaken by Municipality of Pogradec.

Annex - *Strategic Recovery Plan for the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region with Action Plan (2023-2030)* - jointly prepared by the technical groups of the two State Parties is attached as a separate document to this State of Conservation Report.

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Annex 1

Agenda and List of Participants of the Joint Expert Meeting on Strategic Recovery Plan held in Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia



Watershed Management Committee for the Ohrid Lake Expert Meeting on Strategic Recovery Plan

*May 27, 2022 at 12:00
Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia*

AGENDA

WORKING LANGUAGE: ENGLISH ONLY

MODERATOR: HRISTIYAN GJORGIEVSKI, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, NORTH MACEDONIA

11:30 – 11:50 Arrival in Ohrid (Su Hotel, Kej Makedonija 91A, Ohrid)
(Hotel Su Location- <https://goo.gl/maps/KtLaHyBqneDuBPCa6>)

12:00 - 12:20

- **Presentation on Methodology for preparation of MKD Draft Strategic Recovery Plan**
- **Presentation of a preliminary draft template of the ALB Strategic Recovery Plan**

12:20 – 13:00 Discussion on the template Strategic Recovery Plan

13:00 – 13:30 Coordinate timeline for finalizing the draft of the joint document and submission to World Heritage Center

14:00 Lunch hosted by the MKD Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

Location: Su Hotel, Kej Makedonija 91A 6000 Ohrid



**Watershed Management Committee for the Ohrid Lake
Expert Meeting on the Strategic Recovery Plan**



*May 27, 2022 at 12:00
Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Albania

- Kozeta Angjeliu, MoC, Director, Directorate of Cultural Development Program
- Klodjana Marika, Director, Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Edvis Koki, Director, Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Korça
- Johan Sterjo, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Pogradec
- Andi Kosta, Advisor, Municipality of Pogradec
- Sonila Kora, Head of Unit, Directorate of Cultural Development Programs, Ministry of Culture
- Marsela Plyku Demaj, Head of Department, National Institute of Cultural Heritage
- Ornela Bena, Head of Department, Prefecture of Korça
- Ernold Shahu, Regional Administration for Protected Areas

North Macedonia

Government Taskforce for Drafting of the Strategic Recovery Plan

- Zoran Pavlov, Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage - Coordinator
- Emilija Apostolova Chalovska, Architect/Cultural Heritage Expert - Coordinator
- Hristijan Gjorgievski, Office of the Prime Minister
- Vesna Ilievska, State Advisor, Ministry of Culture
- Frosina Antonovska, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
- Ljupka Dimoska-Zajkov, Deputy Head of Waters, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
- Nebi Rhexepi, Head of Spatial Planning, Ministry of Environment
- Martina Blinkova-Donchevska, Natural Heritage Expert
- Ana Aleksova-Tutkovska, Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage


Guests

- Bogdan Nasteski-German, Head of Urban Planning, Ohrid Municipality
- Jasminka Trajkovska- Momirovska, Environmental Protection, Ohrid Municipality


ANNEX 2

Monitoring of the current state of the monument


THE CASTLE OF POGRADEC

INSPECTION DATE	19.10.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	FLORENC CENOLLI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	<p>The situation in Pogradec castle is the same. The part of the wall that is preserved can't be described about the state, because they are covered.</p> <p>In cooperation with the municipality of Pogradec, the project for the restoration of walls, the installation of signage, the rehabilitation of the territory, etc, is being drafted and presented for the public.</p>
PHOTO	


THE HOUSE OF ICKA BROTHERHOOD

INSPECTION DATE	31.12.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	AMANDA CICI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	Object it is in the process of total restoration.
PHOTO	


THE HOUSE OF KRISTAQ PUCE

INSPECTION DATE	25.11.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	AMANDA CICI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	There are no problems in the object from the last inspection. The house has not problems in the structure or in the facade. It is needed to be restored based in the restoration criteria
PHOTO	


THE HOUSE OF KYCYKY BROTHERHOOD

INSPECTION DATE	25.11.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	AMANDA CICI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	<p>The object it is part of the approved project for restauration of the historic center of Pogradec. The object has been inspected.</p> <p>The structure it is in good condition, the facade needs to be restored, the replacement of the windows and the doors that are not in traditional style. The roof it is not in good condition.</p> <p>There are no new problems for this house.</p>
PHOTO	


THE HOUSE OF LASGUSH PORADECI

INSPECTION DATE	25.11.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	AMANDA CICI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	The object it is part of the approved project for restauration of the historic center of Pogradec. There are no problems in the object, state of the monument it is in good condition.
PHOTO	


THE HOUSE OF RINKA GUXHO

INSPECTION DATE	25.11.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	AMANDA CICI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	The object it is part of the approved project for restauration of the historic center of Pogradec. The object it has been inspected. There are the same problems as the last time. The half of the building it is in bad condition, and it is needed total restauration, from the structure to the facade and all the elements. The other half it is in in good condition.
PHOTO	

THE HOUSE OF SANDRI QIPRO

INSPECTION DATE	25.11.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	AMANDA CICI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	<p>The object it is part of the approved project for restauration of the historic center of Pogradec. The structure of the building is in good condition, the plaster it is in good condition from the last restauration, the wood elements are in good condition.</p> <p>It has been restored, but restauration of interior and maintenance it is needed for all elements.</p>
PHOTO	


THE RUINS OF THE PALEO-CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND THE MOSAICS

INSPECTION DATE	Daily inspection
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	Roland Sulollari
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	The mosaics are conserved on 2020 and are covered with sand in order to preserve them from atmospheric agents.
PHOTO	


THE MOSAIC IN THE VILLAGE OF TUSHEMISHT

INSPECTION DATE	29.12.2022
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH KORCA
SPECIALIST	LANDI SULOLLARI
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	The mosaic is underground.
PHOTO	Surveys need to be carried out

THE PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT OF ZAGRADIE

INSPECTION DATE	Daily inspection
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	Roland Sulollari
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	- The settlement is under water.
PHOTO	 An aerial photograph showing a large, clear blue lake on the left side. The lake is bordered by a dense forest of green trees. A dirt path or road winds through the forested area on the right side of the lake. The background shows a large, rounded hill covered in forest, extending towards the horizon under a clear sky.

THE RUINS OF THE PALEO-CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND THE MOSAICS

INSPECTION DATE	Daily inspection
INSTITUCIONE	RDCH Korça
SPECIALIST	Amanda Cici, Roland Sulollari
THE STATE OF MONUMENT	Mosaics are conserved on 2020, by the specialist of RDCH Korca. The mosaics are preserved in a good state and are covered with sand in order to preserve them from atmospheric agents. The walls are in good condition.
PHOTO	

Annex 3

Activities conducted by Municipality of Pogradec

DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES

During 2022 there were performed a series of activities focusing on cleaning of the Lake, enlargement of the green spaces, sensitizing on the use of bicycles, reduction of plastics use, swimming marathon, canoe races, etc.

These activities are directly linked to UNESCO in focus and in relation to the protection of Ohrid Lake.

28 March 2022	Planting Seedlings
19–22 April 2022	World Health Day
09 May 2022	Europe Day
23 May 2022	Lake Shoreline Cleaning
27 May 2022	Lake Shoreline Cleaning
05 June 2022	World Cycling/Environment Day
15 June 2022	Lake Shoreline Cleaning
17 June 2022	Lake Shoreline Cleaning
19 June 2022	Opening of the Tourist Season
30 June 2022	Cleaning
03 July 2022	International Day Against Use of Plastic Bags
30 July 2022	Lake Shoreline Cleaning
12-14 August 2022	Canoe Racing in Pogradec
04 September 2022	Closing of the Tourist Season, Lifeguard
16-22 September 2022	European Mobility Week
10 October 2022	European Week of Cities and Regions

Note:

The Activities were organized by the Directory of Tourism, Cultural Heritage and Youth at the Municipality of Pogradec in cooperation with other local actors, such as Local Institutions, Public Institutions, Local Business, Civil Society, etc.

Correspondence with the Prefecture of Korca

25. 01. 2023

The Institution of the Prefect of Korça District has been following very attentively the situation in the "Dampa e Shllameve" facility, Guri i Kuq Pogradec. The National Agency of Natural Resources has proposed finding a storage site outside the Protected Area. Pogradec Municipality has proposed as a depository for the mineral the property No. 10/14, volume 2, page 226, Cadastral Area 1393, in Çervenakë village, Udënisht Administrative Unit, Pogradec Municipality, which is under the administration of "Albminiera" Sh.A (in liquidation). This company, regarding the change of responsibility of administration and the capital transfer of the property, has informed that the legal provisions for the Auction must be applied.

In the meetings held with representatives of Pogradec Municipality, "Albminiera" Sh.A and the **District Prefect, it was agreed that Pogradec Municipality find another storage place.**

Prefect of Korça District

Urban Development Sector

Ornela Bena

Cel: 0683359599

Meeting focussed on UNESCO recommendations

- There are licenses that are still active concerning mining activity; their activities are developed in galleries. Work is being done to remove them and rehabilitate all the sites where the old mineral deposits used to be. Removing and rehabilitating them takes a longer period of time because the subjects have active long-term licenses. (On September 15, 2022, a meeting was held in the sub-prefecture where it was thought about providing a temporary location for the removal of materials that are at the slag dump in "Guri i Kuq".



- The meeting for the Watershed Management Committee was held on 27.04.2022 in Tushemisht, Pogradec. The goal of the meeting was that this Committee should be represented in higher levels, in the Ministerial rank where the members of the Committee also participated, to deal with several issues, the most important of which is the protection of Ohrid Region and Ohrid Lake. This high level of representation, as well as the drafting of the Common Strategy for the recovery of our Region through the well-conceived Action Plan, which is to be translated into successes, are thought to lead us to fulfilment of the concrete objectives agreed upon beforehand by the Representatives of Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Committee.



- On 29.09.2022 in Drilon, Pogradec, was organized the meeting of the Environmental Area Management Committee for the Protected Terrestrial - Water Landscape of Pogradec. Various actors who are responsible for the management of the area as well as those who have different interests were invited to take part in this meeting. The protected environmental area of the Pogradec Land-Water Protected Landscape does not have a real management plan yet and this will be a task to tackle in the future. At the moment, this area is based on its own regulation in the supplement of the management plan for the period 2017 - 2027. In this meeting, several recommendations from UNESCO were discussed, topics that will also be addressed by the Institutions that were present at the meeting, where each Institution addressed the issues faced up with during the previous year, the measures that were taken during this period and to be taken in the future, such as some illegal constructions, the pollution of Lake Ohrid as a result of phosphorus and nitrogen materials from contaminated mining wastes. Another point was the approval of a provisional point for inerts since there is not an approved site. It was also discussed about the increase of the number of tourists and the implementation of some projects that are still ongoing



Sent by Ernold Shaho, Specialist of Management at the Regional Administration of the Protected Areas, Korçë.

Projects and investments of the Water Supply and Sewerage Company, Pogradec

Pogradec Water Supply and Sewerage Company, thanks to the support of the German Government and the support of the Albanian Government, has realized its goal and vision in equipping the entire city with a sewerage network and supply 24 hours of clean and controlled water for the entire Pogradec area. and that of Bucimas Administrative Unit. Lake Ohrid is one of the oldest lakes in the world and marked for a high biodiversity. Its designation as a cultural heritage has been and is on the focus of the Water Supply and Sewerage Company for its protection. The three implementation phases of the projects consisted of the laying and completion of the Administrative Unit of Bucimas and the city of Pogradec with the drinking water network and the sewerage system.

New projects under implementation.

In the village of Lin, declared as one of the 100 villages for rural development, was implemented during the period 2020-2021 the project for "Systematization and supply of drinking water" for all villagers by improving the quality of services, tourism and life of area residents. Investing on a completely new infrastructure and network after a long supply shortage.

In the Administrative Unit Udënisht where there live about 6000 inhabitants, for the villages Udënisht and Mëmëlisht started the implementation of the project for fulfillment with drinking water supply system in June 2020 and currently it is completed the whole new infrastructure for both villages with 3 new depots, 2 of which are reconstruction and rehabilitation. For about 20 years with reduced supply in 2021 this investment is concluded with 24 hours of drinking water according to European quality standards.

Buçimas Administrative Unit where there live 18724 inhabitants and eight villages (Buçimas, Gurras, Tushemisht, Gështenjas, Rëmenj, Vërdovë, Peshkëpi, Bacallëk) which is equipped with infrastructure for both components except for a percentage which remained uncovered with sewerage network and construction completion is being concluded for all wastewater treatment and collection, avoiding the polluting factor in Lake Ohrid. Tushemishti has benefited from 100% sewerage system service together with the Drilon area. The length of the sewerage network in the village of Bucimas is 7290 m, with a number of 630 customers connected to the system, in Vërdovë the length of the network is 4134 m with 320 connected customers and the village of Guras with a network of 336 m length and 16 connections customers; this construction is done for the purpose of protecting the source. In Tushemisht the whole area is covered with sewerage network. All used water coming from this built system ends up in the water treatment plant which, because of mechanical, biological and chemical treatment is afterwards discharged into the drainage canals within the standards set by the project 'Environmental protection of Lake Ohrid, Phase III '.

All the treatments that the Wastewater Plant performs have an indirect effect on the cleaning and preservation of the biodiversity of the Lake. The chemical treatment with the chemical FeClSO_4 has a direct impact on the protection of the environment, living things and water of Lake Ohrid, not being harmful even to the citizens' health.

Treatment with the chemical FeClSO_4 is not a main activity of the Company, which also aggravates the financial burden but it is an essential and social responsibility of ours which is strictly applied.

Head of Foreign Financing and Coordinator

Valjona SARO









Duke marrë parasysh rekomandimet e UNESCO-s si dhe Bankës Botërore, në qytetin e Pogradecit është mundësuar:

- Përmirësimi i menaxhimit të mbetjeve ekzistuese dhe zgjerimi i zonave ujore nën konservim.
- Eliminimi i derdhjes së mbeturinave, plastikës në ujërat e liqenit duke qënë se këto kanë kosto të drejtpërdrejta ekonomike, rrezikojnë shëndetin publik, si dhe dëmtojnë ekosistemin liqenor.
- Investimi në qendrën e shumimit të rrasatit të peshkut në fshatin Lin, duke zhvilluar sektorin e Ekonomisë Blu, nxitjen e punësimin në atë zonë, si dhe mbrojtjen dhe shtimin e peshqve duke ju referuar edhe kërkesave në rritje për peshkun e liqenit të Ohrit, koranin.

• Menaxhimi efektiv i peshkimit dhe reformimi i tij në përputhje me prioritetet e Strategjisë së Peshkimit dhe rekomandimet për anëtarësimin në BE, duke ndëshkuar peshkimin pa kriter dhe jashtë sezonit të peshkimit.

• Parandalimi i aktiviteteve që ndikojnë në cilësinë e ujit, ndryshojnë burimet ujore bregliqenore si dhe që dëmtojnë faunën, florën dhe shëndetin e njerëzve.

• Nxitja e turizmit ujor përmes krijimit të aktiviteteve në lumenjtë dhe liqenin e qytetit.



JAVA EVROPIANE E QYTETEVE DHE RAJONEVE

