

# PROGRESS REPORT

## THE BUTRINT NATIONAL PARK ALBANIA

FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2011



*District of Sarandë, County of Vlorë*

*N39 45 4 E20 1 34*

*Date of Inscription: 1992*

*Extension: 1999*

*Minor modification inscribed year: 2007*

*Criteria: [\(iii\)](#)*

*Property : 3,980 ha*

*Buffer zone: 4,611 ha*

*Ref: 570ter*

This progress report refers to the period and activities conducted from February 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 until February 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 at Butrint National Park-BNP (Albania). It addresses a number of issues raised, recommendations made and the achieved progress related to:

- 1. The UNESCO-ICOMOS-ICCROM mission, 17 - 21 April 2007.*
- 2. Measures taken by the Albanian government on the implementation of the Resolution for Butrint of the World Heritage Committee (WHC), adopted in the 33<sup>rd</sup> session (Seville, 2009).*
- 3. Reflections on the Assessment of the latest Mission UNESCO-ICOMOS, 24 - 26 August 2010 and the beginning of implementation of these recommendations.*
- 4. The progress report also refers to a series of issues and challenges that remain to be resolved.*

## **A. Development of General Policies concerning the Butrint National Park**

The administration and management of the Butrint National Park during this period (February 2009 - February 2011) has acknowledged a qualitative step and was faced with several challenges and issues, currently under consideration by the Park Administration Office as well as by other responsible actors from central Government and local institutions.

### **General and Combined Plan of Management (Archaeology, Monuments, Environment)**

The Butrint National Park currently has two important documents drafted in this respect, each of them implemented in some parts:

- The Management Plan for Archaeology and Monuments 2007-2012
- The Butrint National Park Environmental Management Plan 2010-2015.

### **The Management Plan for Archaeology and Monuments 2007-2012**

This plan was drafted by the Butrint National Park in cooperation with the Butrint Foundation. It is updated each year and many elements of it are implemented. In accordance with this document, during the second half of 2010 were accomplished:

- 1.** It was implemented a three-way scheme of the management of visitors' ticket, including the control system, which has provided an efficient financial management. During 2010 the income

from tickets to the Park of Butrint marked a growth to about 220.000 US dollars, the highest over all these years, while the number of visitors was about 65.000.

2. An archive of scientific reports, documents, and photographs was created in the new environments at the Park Office in the center of Saranda, according to the international criteria of cataloging. It is under preparation a database concerning the investigation of specific monuments or excavations.

3. In cooperation with the Institute of Cultural Monuments and the Butrint Foundation drafted the Annual Conservation Program for 2010 and it is in the preparatory phase the program of 2011.

4. With the purpose of preventing damages to the archaeological sites and monuments was realized the construction of an enclosure with traditional methods.

(The next undergoing steps are presented in part B of the report).

### **The Environmental Management Plan 2010-2015 of the Butrint National Park**

The process for drafting the Environmental Management Plan of Butrint National Park was accomplished within a period of 2 years (September 2008 - September 2010). It was conducted as part of the Project of Integrated Management and Coastal Area Cleaning (ICZMCP). The environmental management plan of Butrint National Park for the period 2010-2015 was prepared by a multidisciplinary group of consultants from the Albanian Society for the Protection of Birds and Mammals. The preparatory process of this plan was inclusive, including the participation of all central and local actors interested in the park conservation management and in a sustainable development of area around the park, especially the local actors of Xarra, Ksamil and Aliko municipalities, who share among themselves the territory of the park. The process was monitored closely by the World Bank, while was financially supported by GEF component. The Management Plan proposed several activities and subprojects, completed within the project "Integrated Management and Coastal Area Cleaning":

1. The contract with the company "F@STECH" engaged by ICZMCP to purchase electronic equipments for the staff of BNP, with the purpose of strengthening the capacity and increase the performance of BNP staff and guards.

2. The contract with the company "Kaleshi @" to purchase and planting trees on both sides of the road Vrinë-Shëndëlli - Butrint - 1500 m, for the rehabilitation of degraded forests in the central area A of the Park.

Also, the Signaling and Interpretation plan for the BNP was drafted, as well as the technical specifications (for materials and their position) with the purpose of preparing the projects for signaling by an International Consultant (Gavin Bell). This document provides the necessary guidelines and specifications for a company specializing in such projects. In the framework of ICZMCP, the Management Plan of BNP proposed a series of other important activities for the BNP and adjacent areas, to be financed by GEF grant. Since the GEF grant is closed on September 30, 2010, the staff of BNP is responsible to attract donors, to make possible the implementation of these activities, in view of the Management Plan.

### **A complete document, combined and integrated, in process during 2011**

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the latest Mission of UNESCO 24 -26 August 2010, for a combined and complete Plan where are to be included the environment and archeology, we have started the discussion on setting up the working groups that will elaborate to combine the two documents in a single one and improve them. This process is expected to be realized within the first half of 2011. This is in full compliance to section 5.1, point 5 of the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission of 2010.

### **Demolition of illegal constructions in the territory of the Park and in Ksamil.**

During 2010 the Albanian authorities intervened actively to meet one of the measures given by the decision of the World Heritage Committee (Seville 2009) demolishing 262 illegal structures in the municipality of Ksamil build after the law on legalization of constructions was adopted. This action has brought a new positive impact to the public sphere with the purpose of restricting the new illegal constructions. During the second half of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 no illegal constructions were identified in Ksamil and in the area near the archaeological centre.

According to the recommendations of the UNESCO Mission August 24-26, 2010, the park authorities are cooperating with the Municipality of Ksamil to integrate in the preparation of the Management Combining Plan all the actors such as the community, the local administration,

fishermen, tour operators, students and youth. The cooperation is taking place also within the framework of the General Regulatory Plan for Ksamil adopted in 2004, in power until 2024. According to this plan is defined the functional zoning that establish the way of land usage. The

Sub-districts of this zoning are:

The Landscape Zone

The Protected Natural Area

The Coastal protected area and the lake

The Residential area

The Potential area for tourism development

The Park area

The Shopping center area

The Administrative center area

The Visitor Reception Center Park

The Curative Rehabilitation Zone

**a-The landscape area** is designated as an environmentally sensitive area toward developments. This area is identified and protected by the area zoning with a general development prevention.

**b-The protected natural area** includes the Butrint National Park, three islands in the Ksamil beaches and the Bay of Pallavraqi. This area provides possibilities for a large market of visitors, using the natural beaches, the opened landscape and areas of wild vegetation. Developments within the protected natural area should be strictly controlled and will be allowed only if they provide the urgent needs to the visitors.

**c-The coastal protected area and the Reserve of the lake of Butrint,** is the area in which the unique values and environmental landscape will be protected. In this area are included the green recreation protective belt of the existing pine trees and the Mediterranean shrub with a width not less than 100 m from the coastal water lines, the green protective belt of the lake of Butrint, minimum width 150 m from the water line while on Pallavraq Bay, not less than 50 m. No permanent constructions are allowed to be established in these areas.

It is still in a preparatory phase, the process of legalization and urbanization of the informal areas identified in the area of the Butrint Park. The information concerning this process is still under

preparation, but anyway is getting more attention that the objectives to protect the Butrint National Park will not be negatively affected by this process.

### **Impact of the Reconstruction Project Road Segment Çuka Channel - Butrint and reflections on the recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS joint Mission of 2010.**

The Reconstruction Project of the Road segment Cuka Channel - Butrint, is a project financed by the Albanian Road Authority (ARA-former General Directorate of Roads, GRD) in order to improve the traffic in the direction of one of the most visited centers of cultural tourism, as is the Butrint National Park. The massive influx of vehicles, mainly in the tourist season, the lack of security elements along 13.5 km of its length and failure to full the conditions for providing a two-way (the width of the old asphalt road ranged from 4.5 - 5 m), gave impetus to the implementation of a project for road reconstruction.

Due to the fact that the last three miles of road expanded into the territory of the Butrint National Park, based on the Law "On Cultural Heritage" nr.9048, 7.4.2003, the National Council of Archaeology (KKA), after signals received by the park administration, suspended the works and decided to conduct previously an intensive archaeological survey of the road segment Çuka channel-Butrint by a working group composed of specialists from the Archaeological Service Agency, Institute of Archaeology, Regional Directorate of National Culture-Saranda, and the Butrint National Park.

During the intensive archaeological field survey, were identified several potential areas in which archaeological rescue excavations were conducted (**fig. 1**). These excavations brought to light new archaeological structures such as the circular tower, the ancient wall and the Church near the Butrint National Park entrance.

To ensure the protection of these new sites during the implementation of the road project, the Archaeological Service Agency demand the changing the project by providing definitive protection for the archaeological structures discovered. These requests were approved by KKA and were reflected in the re-conception of the project by the representatives of Albanian Road Authority-ARA (former General Roads Directorate). Along the entire length of the road, the works were supervised by experts, the archaeologists of ARA, Regional Directorate of National Culture-Saranda and Butrint National Park.

Based on the decision of KKA (No. 33, dt. 17/11/2009) the project has changed in the following areas:

- At the **KM  $\approx$  4+595** (Dema Wall) there will be no road widening. At the crossing of the existing road with the wall, at a length of 10m, the road will be elevated and the wall below will be freed from construction. Changes in this part will effect  $\approx$  KM 4+500 –  $\approx$  KM 4+720 in order to preserve the road parameters.
- From **KM  $\approx$  12+100 – KM 13+440** because of the high archaeological potential (graves, watch tower, wall lines and traces along the existing road), a full revision of the project is required following the existing road trace, without any excavations on the upper part (left), the provision of street lighting and the narrowing of the section of the road. The section of the road, in this area will be 5m, plus two strips of 0.5m each and a sidewalk of 1.2m on the right side.
- From **KM  $\approx$  4+360** (at the intersection of the Saint George Monastery) archaeological excavation is necessary before the commencement of works. After the excavation the final decision will be taken for this intersection.

For all these changes to the project, was held in Butrint a two-day mission, 24 to 26 August 2010, between the Albanian Experts of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sporta, Archaeological Service Agency, Albanian Road Authority, Institute of Cultural Monuments, Butrint National Park, Regional Directorate of National Culture-Saranda and those of UNESCO-ICOMOS mission at the end of which the experts conclude the following recommendations:

1. Further work concerning the enlargement of the road must be blocked in the actual state of working and there must be no activities in the distance approximately 100m from the new parking area for buses. After this point actions will not be taken for road enlargement.
2. The Albanian Road Authority and the Contractor shall include a landscape architect who will help to determine an appropriate solution to improve the landscape in the territory and in the new parking area for buses and will carefully consider all the new road.
3. The Investor (Albanian Road Authority) will implement the appropriate horizontal signing in the new road structure, to make separate lines for pedestrians and bicycle users (this, to ensure a safe usage of the road by other actors besides cars, trucks, buses, etc.). In sections where such works would require enlargement of the road, whereas it is considered a negative action, then a sidewalk with a supportive wall have to be build. The design of this sidewalk and guardrail protection should respect the values of this site and its surroundings.

4. The Investor (Albanian Road Authority) should also provide suitable crossing and lighting for pedestrians at a distance of approx. 1.2 km from the entrance to the park.

*All the UNESCO-ICOMOS joint mission recommendations have been reflected in the project designs, which is currently under way. Samples of these changes and solutions have been added to this report as tables 1, 2 and 3.*

## **B. DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN THE NATIONAL PARK OF BUTRINT.**

### **Park management**

A staff of five experts in the fields of archeology, monuments, finance, tourism and environment works in the National Park. Parts of the staff are also three employees dealing with maintenance, three other workers and a ticket-seller. The park has a security system, contracted through an opened competition. While during the winter season the staff covered all the necessary duties, during the tourist season the situation faced difficulties. The Park is opened from April to late October, from 8 am to late 8 pm o'clock in the evening. There is no calendar week holiday. At least 65.000 visitors visited Butrint in 2010, most of them in the timeframe from April to October.

The Park engages during this period with its revenues 6 external workers covering the guide service and the operations and maintenance services. In October 2010 the Park office was moved from the former location of the Ethnographic Museum in downtown area of Saranda, with a larger space and more opportunities for promotion and marketing for domestic and foreign visitors arriving in the city of Saranda. The new facility also creates the opportunity to develop programs for electronic archives and documentaries, required by the various missions that monitored Butrint, by UNESCO and other international organizations.

The Office plans to take the ticket booking service in Saranda, especially for visitors in groups with the purpose of reducing the time of staying in the entrance of the park. In the same time preparations are made to develop suitable conditions for administrative services in the area of the park. Therefore, in one of the locations will be implemented the waiting service for the visitors and other services, while in another location is expected to institute a library with funds for Butrint. During 2010 was realized a total income of 21,852,700 lekë (about 220.000 US dollars). This



income came mainly from ticket sales, 21,655,000 lekë, 67,700 lekë from the sale of books, 110,000 lekë from donations, and 20,000 are other income. (100 lekë is ca. 1 US dollar).

### **Preparation of the inventory of the archaeological objects related to Butrint.**

The Butrint Park continues to make progress in the repatriation of objects robbed during the transition period. After returning to the Butrint Museum of 2 sculptures (Apollo and Artemis) from Greece in 2010, Italy turned back also the Asclepius head exposed in the National Museum of History in Tirana (**fig.2**). The efforts to set up a database for archival funds (photographs and documentary) about the activity of the Park in these ten years continues at the new locations of the National Park offices in Saranda.

### **Re-installing of water pumps in the Theatre**

The water situation continues to be under a constant monitoring. The park cooperating closely with the Institute of Cultural Monuments is committed to strengthen the capacity with pumps to draw the water. In 2010 IMK came with a project idea for drainage the water away from the area of Gimmazium, Triconch and theater. The pumps serve as a device for protection against fire. But in the case of the theater, knowing the fact that the floor is placed below the lake level is not possible to draw the water during the winter months. On the other hand the experts stressed the idea that the operation of pumps besides the removal of water can take away the veil of stones leading to problems for the monuments therefore it is recommended a careful operation of them.

### **Improvement of protection**

The Park has completed an action plan for 2010 to intervene in some areas with traditional wooden enclosures. In particular, it will begin from the triangular Castle and will follow in the area of Diaporit. Wooden rod fencing will be used (the traditional way of this area for fences) to prevent injuries or the entry of farm animals.

### **Improvements at the entrance**

At the entrance of the Park already has a visitor management system with dual control of the ticket. Besides the toilets, a center offers traditional products of the area and a series of publications for Butrint in foreign languages. This activity is performed in close collaboration with the Butrint Foundation. The park has planned to start using an electronic booking-office this year. Also the conclusion of the road from Butrint to Ksamil, the construction of pedestrian sidewalks, its lighting and disposition of parking expected to be achieved before the tourist season started (May 2011).

### **Appropriate supervision by the security police**

The Park guards are part of a private security company that receives as financing 50% of the total annual expenditure of the park. They are equipped with appropriate means but strengthening of the park ability with motorcars is needed to supervise the area. The park does not own any moving vehicles. During 2010 as a result of cooperation with local communities from neighboring areas, the security company and the Directory of Forests in the Park area there was only a small fireplace from several dozen that marked the whole territory of 86 square km some years ago.

### **Actions against illegal constructions**

The action undertaken in Ksamil by the National Inspectorate of Construction in 2010 has completely discouraged the illegal constructions in the entire territory of the Park. But during the summer months there have to be done an intensive monitoring, especially in the area near the beaches with the purpose of preventing the establishment of light structures that affect the environment.

### **Cooperation program with local communities**

During 2009-2010 the Park was included in a cooperation program with the local community. During the period lasted from October to December 2010 was realized a campaign with the purpose of restricting hunting in the area of the park by informing the residents (with brochures

and posters) about the sanctions of the new Law on Hunting adopted by the Albanian Parliament in 2010.

During the period June – October, was in action a fire prevention campaign in cooperation with the forest service.

In cooperation with the Butrint Foundation is intended, to set up a committee of the local community to have a mutual cooperation between the park and the interest groups (farmers, farming, citrus growers, etc.).

All citizens residing within the park areas and outside have been informed through a special television program hosted by the park and the local media, about the borders of the country and its values. The enlargement of the country areas has proved the importance of such action to conserve the park area.

### **International cooperation**

The Butrint National Park has closely cooperated during this period with the Program of Integrated Coastal Management, Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the World Bank. During 2009-2010 the Park was included in activities within the initiative of the Adriatic region Parks and currently is applying in the Inter-borders Program Albania - Greece (IPA) financing by the EU.

### **Developing studies for the preservation and presentation of the structure and the mosaics of the baptistery, and other buildings.**

The annual implementation of the interventions for the conservation of the mosaics is in progress. Among the most important projects for 2010 were the conservation interventions on the Triconch mosaics, respectively, in sections XXV and XVI. Efforts are made to develop a program of detailed annual conservation mosaic structures. From the Park point of view the mosaic of the baptistery should not be discovered, monitored and presented to the public until a conservation solution is found out and a presentation is made in an appropriate way. From the Park viewpoint the mosaic of the theatre after the conservation have to be exposed to the visitors at least 1 month during the flow of tourists and during the time in which the water level in the monument has dropped.

## **The Museum of Butrint**

On October 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 the Museum passed to the Park authorities. In 2009 one worker was added to its staff, dealing mainly with cleaning the museum and the show-cases where the archaeological objects are exposed. The Museum still needs investment especially in the security system, the preservation of objects in appropriate climatic conditions and for a better presentation of its values.

## **Preparation of an archaeological map of Butrint and its surroundings.**

The Environmental Management Plan has given to the authorities of the park, the maps produced for the areas A, B and C. These maps will include the archaeological information.

## **Archive of scientific reports, documents, pictures, movies**

With the creating of new spaces within the Park offices there are furnished the appropriate conditions for archives. The digitalization of all the documentation concerning the Park is in process, also the identification of the monuments conditions. The Institute of Cultural Monuments during 2010 has carried out a report on the ground with draft-idea concerning the conservation and restoration, while a report for the conservations has been drafted in 2010 by the Butrint Foundation. On the basis of these two documents, the priorities for investment during 2011 and 2012 will be considered.

## **Signage and tour guides**

The Butrint archaeological area is furnished with a well-designed explanatory itinerary and a museum focused on the cultural heritage of the National Park and in particular in the ancient city. From May to October the park makes available to visitors three guides that offer mainly guides for visitors in groups. Within the Park can be found number of publications and private guides. The resources that offer information concerning the natural environment are furnished in printed form. The itinerary and publications have been elaborated with the support of the Butrint Foundation. A number of roads for pedestrians have been projected which lead the visitors to a location outside the ancient city. There are no explanatory tables outside the main area and in 2010 there was a plan

financed by the Butrint Foundation to locate 6 new interpretive tables. Two other large explanatory tables will be placed during 2011 with the support of the Ministry of Culture. The park has a complete study for the tour signals devised by an international expert in the framework of the Environmental Management Plan.

### **Visitor Center, the World Bank Program**

Two visitor centers are projected in the access points. The northern one will be in the community of Ksamil (1.2 km away from the current entrance of the park) and the southern center in Mursi. The visitors (the public) of the Park and the local community will be the main objectives of these centers. In particular, the center of Ksamil will play a key role in incorporating and promoting of an encouraging character toward the national park within the community that is developing rapidly. Each center will have five panels produced with the high quality material assembled for internal exposure. Each panel will cover a single topic with a visual approach. The content will be bilingual in Albanian and English.

### **Observation tower**

The project plans to build two observation towers as platforms to supervise the biodiversity of Vivari Channel and Gulf of Butrint. A tower will be located on the edge of the field of Vrina in the route of the Gulf of Butrint, the other one will be located inside the castle of Ali Pasha. This place is accessible only by boat. The visitors of these sites up this moment would have received the general messages of the National Park from other places.

### **Training**

During 2010 continued the multi-year project in the field of Archaeology, the Summer School of Archaeology. The novelty of this season was the realization, along with the excavation program, of a new program on the conservation and management of the cultural heritage. The Summer School of Archaeology, the sole of its kind in Albania, offered the opportunity to be trained in both programs to 19 Albanian students from the universities of Tirana, Gjirokastra, Elbasan, Pristina, Skopje, Thessaloniki, Athens and Milan, and to 6 foreign students from the University of Oxford, Kalamazos, Chicago, Bar, the American School of Vienna and Rome. The students attended

theoretical and practical lectures concerning the modern techniques of archaeological excavation, conservation and the process of documenting the archaeological findings. The Park personnel will be active in trainings program held inside and outside the country focused on the Archaeological Researches, Conservation of Monuments and Park management as well as that concerning the travel guides. This year the park will promote trainings in the handicrafts sector by cooperating with various NGOs as well as training in environmental aspects. The park will be active in training in financial management and human resources.

### **Presentations**

The Butrint National Park will be more aggressive in terms of presentation of its values. During 2011 initiatives will be taken to promote an integrated management of the UNESCO sites, Butrint, Berat and Gjirokastra. Steps forward will be made in cooperation with the Regional Directories of National Culture and the municipalities of the two cities in exchanging of joint promotional products. This was the year of the highest number of visitors to the National Park of Butrint. Apart from its not so successful starting the continuation of the tourist season was too unpredictable. During the year there were significant changes in the tourist infrastructure since it started and is at the conclusion the adjustment of the entrance road in the north part of the Park that will bring a very great relief to the next year visitors due to the expansion and asphaltting of the most part of it. This adjustment is expected to be completed in 2011.

### **Tourism from the Greek border**

The opening of the road that connects Igoumenitsa (Greece) with Qafëbota (Albania), the modernization of customs and the improved road from Qafëbota to Butrint led the arriving of hundreds of visitors also by this direction. This road crosses an attractive landscape enriched during the last three years by planting a few thousand of citrus roots (olives, tangerines and oranges). During 2010 on both sides the road that connects Vrina with Butrint, were planted over 600 sapling trees, financed by GEF and World Bank. Travel agencies from Parga have started the cooperation with the Albanian tourist agencies and during 2011 this cooperation is prospected to be expanded. The park has improved with its human capacities the entrance from the south, near triangular castle and during the tourist season it is required a systematization of the soils and hospitable environment.

## **Transportation Study**

Since the month of August 2010 according to the recommendations of the Management Plan (2007-2012) has started an estimation of the number of tourists who enter the park from both directions, south and north.

### **Transport of visitors to Butrint, the Port of Saranda**

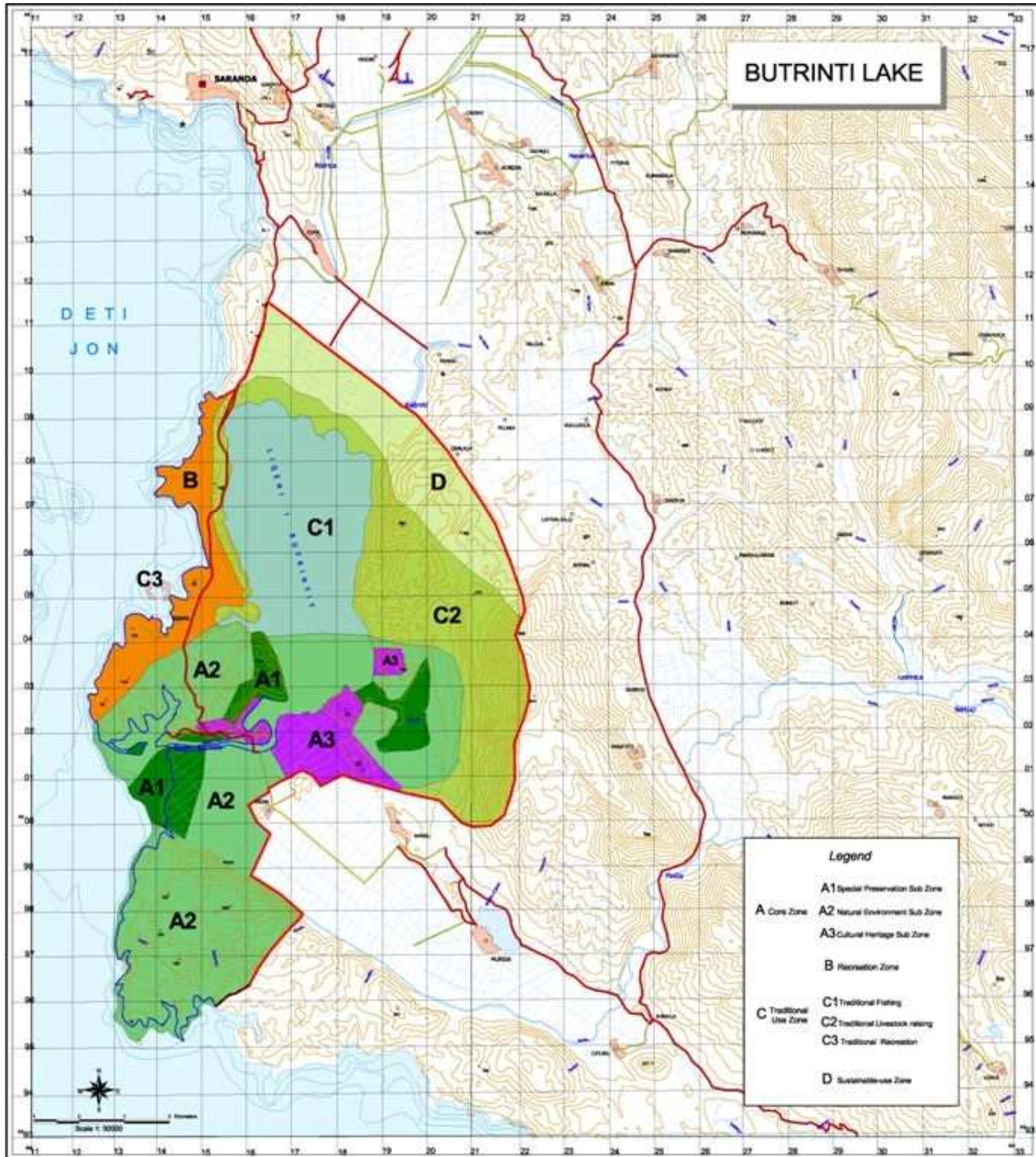
The most part of the visitors came from Corfu to Butrint through Saranda. During 2010 according to the port's statistics arrived from Corfu to Saranda 45,300 foreign visitors from a total of 56,276. Most visitors seem to have returned again from this port to Corfu because about 46,036 foreigners departed from the Port of Saranda to Corfu in 2010. The high indicator indicate that the majority of visitors arriving in Saranda from Corfu have a very short stay, one or two days. A small part of the visitors preferred to come in Albania with their cars, only 285 cars entered the port in this period. This, also because of the limited number of cars transported by small ferries departing from Corfu as well as from Saranda.

### **Cruise Tourism**

During the last two years Saranda is becoming a favored destination for quite a lot cruises. Rather than a small part of hundreds of hours visitors after arriving at the port came to Butrint by buses managed by the local tourist agencies. The capacities of these agencies have been increased and afford very well individual events, small and massive groups. Although at the moment the Port of Saranda has no possibilities to anchor such a large ship cruise, the implementation of a project to increase the port capacities is expected to be completed by 2012. The Park office aims a more persistent promotion to this category and the improvement of the road Sarandë-Butrint is expected to increase a lot the interest of tourists who travel with these cruise ships to reach Butrint.

Based on the draft decision 33 COM 7B.86, of the World Heritage Committee, the above information provided by Butrint National Park (Albania) constitutes the progress report requested to be submitted to WHC by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

**MAP OF BUTRINT NATIONAL PARK**





**FIGURES**

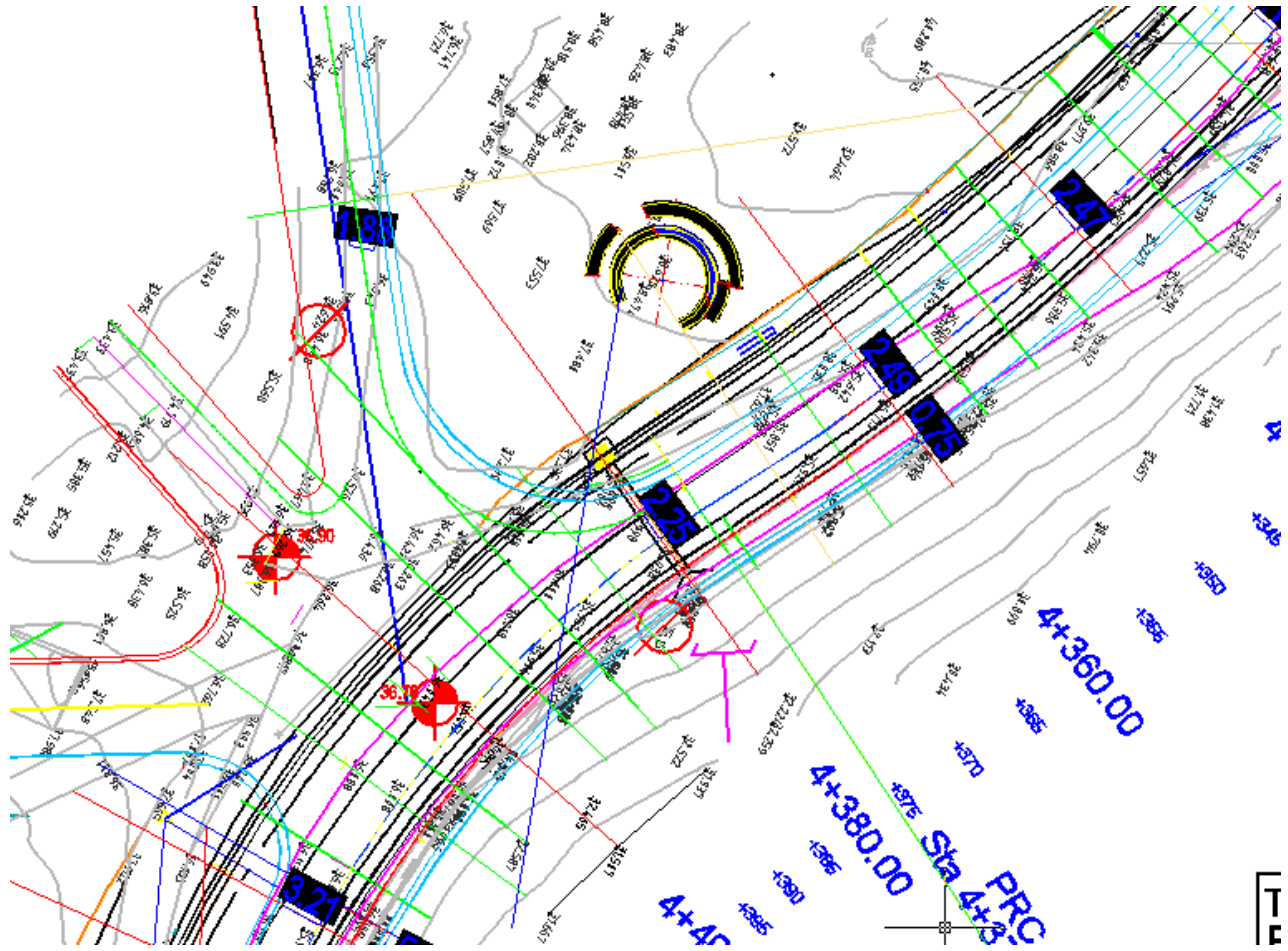


*Fig. 1. Archaeological hot-spots found during the Intensive Archaeological Survey conducted ahead of the road widening.*



*Fig. 2. Head of Asclepius returned from Italy in May 2009.*

**TABLES**



*Table 1. Solution given to intersection of Saint George Monastery (refer to pg. 7)*

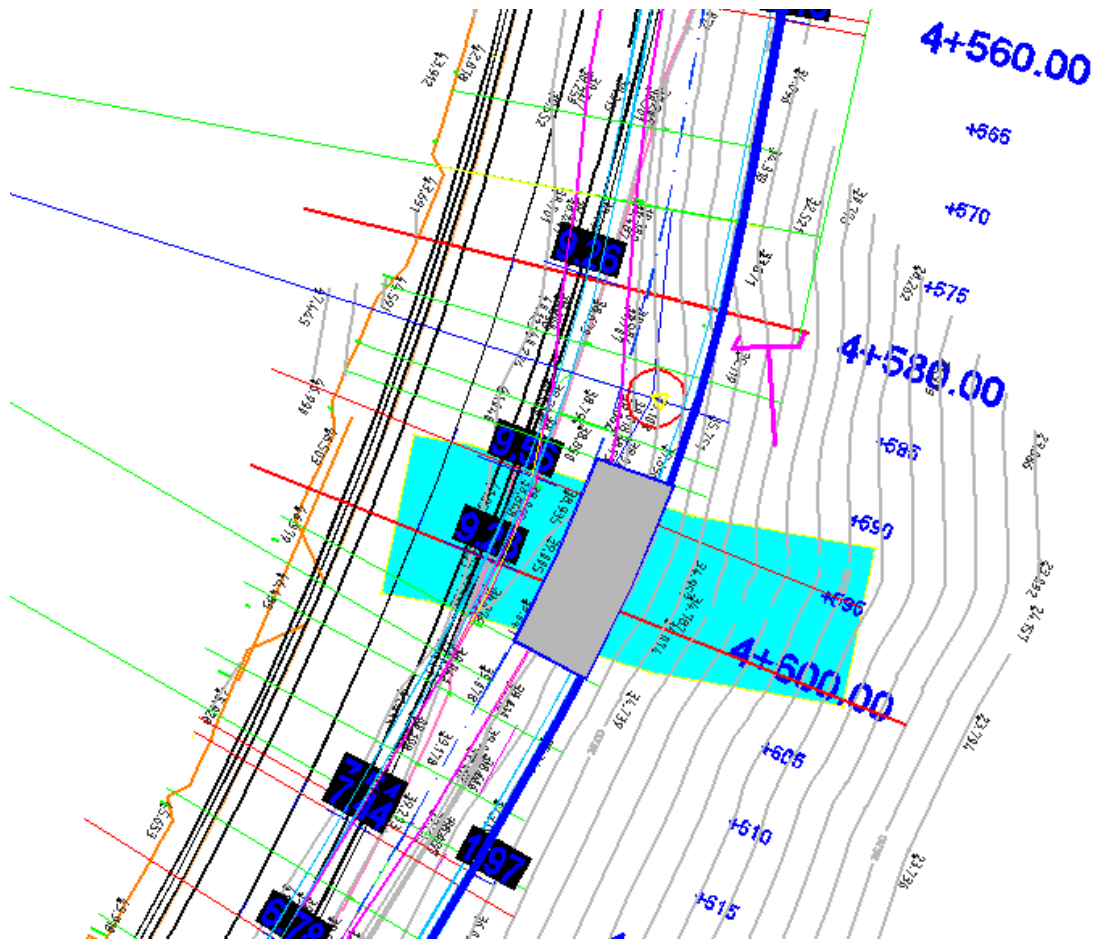


Table 2. Dema Wall road solution for not damaging the ruins (refer to pg. 7)

PROFIL TIP 5  
 (km 12180-12540, Parku  
 Kombetar Butrint )  
 ne zonat me mure mbajtes

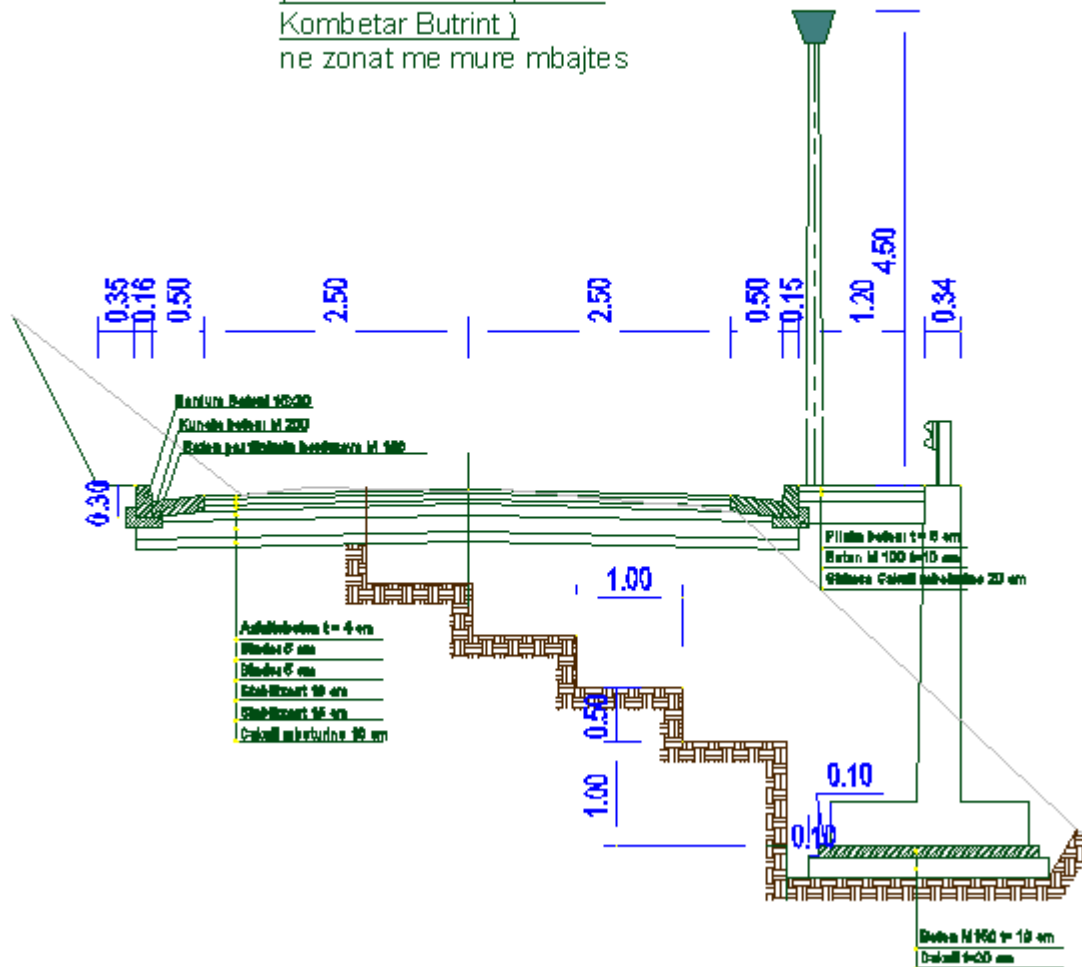


Table 3. Road section at last 1.2 km before the Butrint National Park entrance. Note the street lights and sidewalk as recommended by the UNESCO-ICOMOS joint mission, August 2010.