

BUTRINT NATIONAL PARK INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 – 2020

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -FIRST DRAFT REPORT-

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Overview

The following report is prepared in the framework of Butrint National Park Integrated Management Planning Process and it covers the Education and Community Development components.

The main objective of this report is to provide an initial summary of the most evident issues concerning the Education and Community Development, as two important resources for the sustainable development and preservation of culture and natural values of Butrint National Park.

This is only a first draft of the report and therefore the findings are not structured in any order of importance or time concern and they are subject to further elaboration.

The report is divided in two sections:

Part 1. Education in Butrint National Park

Part2. Community Development in Butrint National Park

Part 1. Education in Butrint National Park

The core of Butrint and its surroundings, with its cultural and natural diversity, offers a reach environment for learning and qualification in the field of archaeology, conservation, management of culture heritage, interpretation of the habitat, study of flora and fauna, application of innovative technologies such as 3d recordings of the monuments, geophysics and other fields.

Education in Butrint should be a main priority not only for scientific research programmes and trainings, but as well for every child and young people to learn outside the classroom as part of increasing awareness and understanding of the values of Butrint.

1. Education programs in the past

M. Luigi Ugolini was the first archaeologist who undertook large scale excavations inside Butrint, since 1924, but no evidences of training or education programs are included in his descriptions or agenda, nor students neither community. Although most of the workmen were from the local villages around Butrint, they were not aware of the importance and values of Butrint.

During the communism period, in the expeditions organized by the Institute of Archaeology in Butrint some students were involved in the archaeological excavations but not as part of a proper training programme. Although Butrint was very attractive site for archaeologist, it was too far from Tirana and did not include research for the big archaeological question at that time such as the continuity of Illyrians to Arber (new Albanians) that the new generation should above all learned. As a consequence places such Korça or Koman, Albanopolis (Zgërdhesh), in some cases Apollonia or Durrës were most favourable and attracted the biggest number of students.

Activities from community were often organized inside Butrint; especially during the visits of very important people from the political “byro” of communism or during the visits of foreign important politicians such as Nikita Hrushov. The local community organised festivals with their traditional dresses and traditional dancing inside Butrint (rubrika televizive). Also elementary school children were mobilized for different cultural activities to promote Butrint in the eye of every important visitor.

In special celebration days such as “the summer day” and 1st of May (workmen day) the locals were using Butrint as a picnic place, a tradition that continued in small scale until the park was created.

Even though Butrint was a popular destination for the local schools, there were no written or organized programs for elementary and high school children.

After the collapse of communism political system in the 1990's, Albania, as many other post-communist countries, faced serious problems, including its scientific and academic sectors. This included archaeology and even the previous achievements in cultural heritage were threatened by the changes of the time. Alongside these practical challenges the new involvement with foreign projects and exchange programs between universities from Western Europe and America, brought new and challenging philosophies to assist in the integration of contemporary archaeological thought and debate instead of only material cultural studies. Integration of young archaeologist and students in different foreign projects all over Albania brought a new experience and a new inspiration for the future years.

Butrint played a great role in this process. Since 1994 young archaeologists and students were involved regularly in different projects.

The first management plan of Butrint 2000-2005 was prepared by Sally Martin where education programs were proposed to be organized for

1. Elementary and high school students. A specialist of education within the Butrint National Park should have organized these programs
2. University students including different training programs.

The next management plan 2007-2012 followed the same bases as the first management plan.

2. Achievements based on the management plan 2000-2005

1. Specialist of community/education. In 2005 a specialist of community including education was elected by the Butrint Foundation. This good initiative lasted only 2-3 years and was not included in the park staff.

2. Elementary school packages were created and aimed the education of children with cultural and natural history of Butrint. Regular visits to Butrint from different local schools were organized for few years. In 2007 the book "Welcome to Butrint" was published by the Butrint Foundation in serve to elementary school children. The book aimed to stimulate children within the Butrint National Park to organize different cultural activities in Butrint such as the composition of mosaics, making of ancient clothes, imitation of roman emperors, creation of masks and other entertainment but informative activities for children. The book was given for free to elementary schools, especially in Ksamili village, from 2007 until 2009.

3. The Butrint Training School for university students

3.1 Archaeological training program

In 2000 the Butrint Training School was created as an attempt to provide a modern educational experience for Albanian university students. Since 2000 until 2012 the training school was part of the Butrint project funded by Packard Humanities Institution-

Butrint Foundation. It was linked in its origins with junior year abroad schemes and considerable investments in postgraduate training funded from the same sources, but in essence it was intended to be a basic undergraduate introduction to fieldwork. Some 40% of young professional Albanian archaeologists, working at Ministry level or in the national Park structures, institutes, local and NGO based bodies began their careers at Butrint.

The excavation program has involved teaching archaeology by practice and direct experience using interdisciplinary techniques and transferable skills. The students have been trained by direct participation in site and artifact processing supplemented by on-site talks, lectures and demonstrations. In particular, instructions have been given for elementary surveying and excavation techniques, stratigraphic recording systems, archaeological draughtsman ship, processing and recording of archaeological artifacts close to the qualified specialists, monuments study, as well as an introduction with the concepts of conservation, restoration and tourism.

As part of the program, several educational trips have been undertaken to archaeological and cultural heritage sites around the regions of Saranda and Gjirokastra.

On the same bases the Butrint Training School has involved workmen from local communities, mainly from the new village of Shën Dëlli in order to give them an educational background about ancient sites and to help them understanding the importance of the World Heritage site of Butrint, in short, to make them stakeholders in the whole process.

The archaeological training excavations initially were focused on the excavation of the Triconch palace, but in 2002 activity moved to the suburb of Butrint, in the Vrina Plain, where new excavation quadrates were opened. Here the school in different years has been focused on the excavation of elements of the Roman town house complex and late antique basilica as follows:

2002 Excavation of elements of a Roman bath complex.

2003 Continued excavation of bath and trial excavation Roman buildings and streets to the north and south.

2004 Excavation of the narthex and elements of the nave of a late antique basilica.

2005 Excavation of a series of reception rooms belonging to the Roman town house.

2006 Continued excavation on reception rooms.

2007 The Roman temple mausoleum to the east, the aqueduct piers and the road in front of the temple.

In 2008 a completely new site on the Vrina Plain, to the east of the previous excavations, was selected as the most promising training ground which continued until the summer 2012. The site included the excavation of a roman bathhouse, a mausoleum, medieval layers and a roman villa.

The archaeological excavation program was enriched in 2009 when “The manual of archaeological practices” (V. Hysa, N. Molla) was published in serve to university students.

3.2 Conservation training program

For some time the Butrint Training School has intended to expand the types of courses offered to Albanian students in order to provide them with a greater range of opportunities. Thus, in the summer season of 2010 a pilot program was organized in parallel with the excavation program to deal with basic conservation issues and cultural heritage management in Butrint and continued until summer 2012. Previous training programs of conservation for some community workmen was undertaken by the Butrint Foundation inside Butrint but also were sent in Rumania to a parallel project.

In 2010 a direct intervention on the monuments was realized on the Vrina Plain. A part of the apse of the basilica, which has survived for centuries, was being damaged by inclement winter weather.

In 2011 students were involved together with the specialists on the conservation project of Ali Pasha castle and in 2012 in the city walls of Butrint.

The students of conservation program were selected on the bases of their previous participation in the excavation program of Butrint Training school. The goal was to prepare an Albanian group of students trained with the techniques of excavation and conservation but also a group who will be aware for the archaeological and conservation problems of Butrint since in their genesis as the future professionals.

3.3 Collaboration of Butrint National Park with Foreign universities (training of foreign students in Butrint)

- American University of Rome

Since 2009 American University of Rome brings their students within the Butrint Training School to be trained on the same bases as the Albanian students with the techniques of excavation and conservation. This collaboration continued until summer 2012.

- Utica College of New York State

Another summer school organized in Butrint is the Anthropological course organized by UTICA College. Since 2003 UTICA College train their university students with the basic anthropological techniques and use as a resource study the bone materials excavated in Butrint through years and different projects.

- Notredame Univeristy

Since 20010 Notredame university excavates inside Butrint and brings students from its university to excavate and to be involved in research outputs.

4. What is missing in Butrint?

1. **Sustainability of the education programs.** Almost all education programs organized in Butrint since the Butrint National Park was created were organized and funded by foreign or private foundation projects. Although Albanian state bodies were collaborators it was not their vision. Most of the programs have stopped because of the lack of funds or interest by the organizers and no sustainable programs exist in Butrint.

2. **The main role of Butrint National Park.** Although BNP has been collaborators with the projects always played a secondary role on the projects and because of lack of staff and funds they have not been capable to continue the programs independently.

3. **Elementary and high school education programs.** In the past occasionally have been organized different programs for children and teenagers of community, especially about culture heritage, which resulted very useful, but for one reason or another have stopped getting organized. Organized and continuous programs are necessary in order to provide a stable education for every generation.

4. **A permanent specialist of education within the Butrint National Park structure.** A permanent specialist of education will provide different education programs for the schools inside and especially outside the class and will ensure the continuity and sustainability of the education programs, including culture heritage and environment, in close collaboration will school teachers (field research need to be done to the local schools if they organize any program about the education in Butrint). The programs will be included in the management plan of Butrint 2012-2020.

5. **Sustainable university programs.** Since 2000 in Butrint, unlike in any other archaeological site in Albania, have been organized every year different training programs about archaeology, conservation and anthropology for Albanian and international students. Although most of the training programs are of high standard are not sustainable. For this reason Butrint National Park should be the main protagonist to ensure the sustainability of the programs. Butrint National Park also should orientate the programs in accordance with the research needs, conservation, environment, tourism, management and any other program which will help to enrich Butrint's data and maintenance.

6. **Education and awareness programs for community.** Living close to a world heritage site is a fortune that everyone should be conscientious for its importance. Community is very important for the protection and survival of the site, and for this reason continuous education and awareness programs should be organized by the park, not only for that part of community that has economic interests in Butrint as it usually happened in the past. Concrete education and awareness programs will be proposed for the management plan of Butrint 2012-2020 which will involve the majority of community.

7. **Involvement on the education programs of disabled persons from community and wider.** As the best organized world heritage site in Albania, Butrint should be the example of every park.

Part 2. Community Development in Butrint National Park

1. Brief Description of Butrint National Park Community

There is no fixed definition for the “Community of Butrint National Park”, however in most strategic documents community of the park is considered the population living inside the park and in the nearby vicinity of the park borders, and who share interests that directly or indirectly impact the resources and values of Butrint National Park.

The area of Butrint National Park is under the territorial jurisdiction of the Vlora Region. The administrative territory of Butrint National Park includes territory of three communes; Xarra, Ksamili and Aliko.

The Commune of Xarra includes 5 villages and takes the name from one of these: Xarra, Vrina, Shen Delli, Mursia and Shkalla. The villages are located on the border of Butrint National Park territory. Vrina and Shen Delli are just on the Park south border, 2 km far from the main archaeological site, Xarra is located 7 km far from the main archaeological site, Mursia 8 km and Shkalla 12 km. All of the villages are situated on the road that goes from Butrint to Konispoli, the last town of southern Albania, about 20 km far from Mursia, close to Greek border. *The village of Shkalla is far from Butrint National Park and due to the long distance there is not considered to be any direct mutual impact, so this village is generally not considered part of the community of the park.*

The Commune of Ksamili includes the village of Ksamili, from which it takes the name and the recently founded village of Manastiri. Ksamili is situated in the northern border of the World Heritage site and only about 6 km from the main archaeological site. Manastiri is a small village that was founded in the last decade and it is located nearby the Monastery of Saint George. Ksamili and Manastiri are the only two villages that are located inside the boundaries of the park.

The commune of Aliko has several villages under its jurisdiction, but only Pllake, Fanar Qenurio and Berdenesh are located adjacent to the park borders and for this reason only these villages are to be considered as part of the community of Butrint National Park.

2. Strategic Planning and the Community of Butrint National Park

The first official document that takes in consideration the community as an important resource for the sustainable development of Butrint National Park has been the

“Management Plan 2000 – 2005”, which was produced in 2000 immediately after the park was founded. The principal aims of this plan were:

- to preserve the character and qualities of Butrint for future generations
- to promote sustainable forms of agriculture, educational use and tourism in and around the Park and thereby to contribute to the regional economy and the community
- to unite the local communities and interest groups involved with the park behind a single program of actions.

The National Park was established by the Ministry of Culture on an initial area of 29 km², and its boundaries extended to the edges of four neighboring villages: Ksamili, Shen Deli, Vrina and Xarra and then in 2005 the territory was extended

Among the main objectives for the establishment of the park such as preservation of the setting and magical atmosphere and protection of archaeological record of the constellation of sites and monuments found at Butrint, was also the promotion of the economy of local villages by focusing visitors services within these villages rather than in *ad hoc* developments at the entrance to Butrint.

The Management Plan 2000 – 2005 has identified distinct cultural values and among them there are clearly values that affect the community. These values are:

- *Butrint is a source of cultural identity and national pride. A place where one is traditionally taken as a child or as a reward.*
- *Butrint is an important economic resource as a focus for tourism. It is the primary attraction for visitors to the region and a potential gateway to other archaeological and natural sites in southern Albania.*

Based on the values the management plan defines that the shared vision of the interest groups was that the Butrint National Park must meet the economic and social needs of the local communities while not losing its identity. The park should be used for academic research, agriculture, education and tourism. These activities must be sustainable and undertaken in such a way that they enhance rather than diminish the assets on which they depend.

Sustainable tourism was given as the alternative to mass tourism model that the region had started to develop at the time when the plan was elaborated. This was a new type of tourism, which is based on the concept of quality not quantity. The market aims to sell diverse products based on what is unique about a region or place and can demand higher unit prices as a result. With the emphasis on quality not quantity, small-scale tourist ventures are more likely to succeed as long as they offer a high standard of service. The economic return for local communities is potentially much greater than with

mass tourism. The market is still global but the product is unique. The impact on the environment is variable, but can be positive rather than negative, as the environment is part of the product on sale.

Agriculture is described as the main land user industry in the park that involves the villagers in farming, fishing and other commercial activities, which were considered important to the future of the park for the following reasons:

- They provide a stakeholder interest in the Park
- They offer a means of managing the landscape and its habitats.
- They represent a sustainable activity within the Park, which will supplement and service the tourist industry.
- They could potentially provide a number of high-quality products, which could be used to promote the Butrint National Park and the communities alike.
- They provide an alternative value to the land in and around the Park other than the notion of tourist constructions, and therefore help ease the development pressure in the area of the Park.

The Management Plan 2000-2005 emphasizes the need for a strategic investment fund to encourage and enhance agriculture activities and development of a code of conduct for the participants, to help the community to ensure sustainability of activities within the park. As well it sets the idea for the creation of Branded local products to be sold through formal outlets and visitors centers.

The creation of the Butrint National Park was an important step towards protecting the site. However, changes had to be made to the way the Park was organized to enable the efficient and successful management of the Park.

The management structure proposed by the Management Plan among the archaeologists, conservator and administration had as well a Community officer and an Education Officer.

The Management Plan 2000 – 2005 set up a series of 15 objectives that were divided into short and medium term goals and actions. Many of these objectives were focused and impacted directly and indirectly on the community

Objective 9 wherein Butrint National Park would be developed as a visitor's destination that contributed to the economic regeneration of the region,

Objective 12, in which the boundaries and values of Butrint would be recognized and respected by local, national and international agencies

Objective13, as the regions primary tourist asset, Butrint Park would lead the way to developing sustainable tourism

Objective 14, wherein the transport links in and around the park should be environmental friendly and the least damaging options for both the community and the park must be promoted

Objective 15 stated that all agricultural activity in the Park should be sustainable and authorized under management agreements between the park authority and the local farmers and fishermen.

Another strategic document that has been produced for the development of the park is the “Master Plan for Butrint National Park” It is unclear if this document was ever approved in any legal form, nevertheless there is not much evidence to what extent this plan was ever tried to be implemented.

The master plan states that:

All the local villages have the opportunity to benefit from development of the Park and associated tourism as well as other sustainable economic activities which could be promoted locally. As service centers for the Park they could provide accommodation and a range of facilities as well as staff, goods and services. Development of appropriate infrastructure for the park can also enhance the quality of life for local residents. However it is essential that development is well planned and appropriate in scale, design and quality to ensure that it enhances the local setting rather than detracting from it.

As outlined in the Management Plan 2000 – 2005, an economically successful and educated local community is the cornerstone of the Park’s success as a conservation resource, tourist attraction, and a stable and healthy environment. The locality has some potentials to be economically successful from natural resources alone (aquaculture, agriculture, etc). However, realistically tourism is likely to be the foundation from which success of the park and local community will stem.

The town of Saranda and villages of Ksamili, Vrina, and Shen Deli and also potentially Xarra and Mursia have potential to develop as service centers for the Park. Principal services for the tourist industry will include information, transport and tours, accommodation and sustenance. For the Park management the nearby communities will need to provide staff and a range of support services for infrastructure and equipment.

There is an almost unlimited potential for a diversified local economy to be built from these principal service areas, such as building supplies and services, food production and distribution and a range of potential attractions or products for tourists.

The villages at the Park boundary Ksamili, Vrina and Shen Deli presently have some distinctive qualities such as their settings, some of the buildings and their rural character. However they are not attractive settlements and they lack many basic services and amenities. External influences are apparently encouraging rapid expansion of Ksamili and Shen Deli. As the potential to provide services to tourists emerges this growth may accelerate. It is essential that the parameters for sustainable urban growth are established now so that the villages can maintain their distinctive characteristics and develop opportunities for environmental enhancement.

Concretely the Master Plan suggests the development of some principal tools for the planning and development of the villages;

- A development plan establishing designated areas where building can and should not occur. In particular this should define the peripheral limits to village expansion.
- Design guidelines for buildings and external areas. These will ideally define a local vernacular that is both environmentally and aesthetically appropriate.
- An evaluation of future service requirements and incorporation of these into the plans. This evaluation will partly define the extent of possible development within a sustainable framework.
- A definition of the types of buildings and facilities provision that can support the Park and tourism industry whilst also benefiting the community
- Consideration of additional infrastructure requirements associated with development such as roads and services.

Primary constraints for regenerating the local communities and establishing them as attractive service centers for the Park are expected to be: availability of financial investment, availability of skills and organizational experience and the ability to establish co-operative support from all stakeholders (particularly in enforcing development control).

One of the main aims of the Master plan was to create a vision for the park and a blueprint for successful development of the region: The Park at Butrint can act as a catalyst for change and improvement within the area, so that future visitors will come to see it as an example of tourism development taking place in harmony with the local landscape and economy. Butrint has not been a single period city. It has maintained its importance for centuries as an important gateway and focus for the region. It should continue this function as it develops into a new gateway and focus for tourism and sustainable development: "The gateway into Albania's past and future" could become the theme that is clearly understood by visitors, locals and all those involved in the Park's development.

It is suggested that the Park management team must become involved in influencing local planning policy for the region. This could begin by establishing a good development control and design guidance criteria for building activities within the park. These issues need to be promoted and addressed by all parties involved in planning, operating and maintaining development and infrastructure in the region. Not least important is the consultation with local communities as their understanding and support for planning legislation is critical to its success.

Agriculture is as well considered an important resource for the local economy, but there are identified a number of problems with existing practices including overgrazing, soil erosion, drought management and pollution of water bodies. The development of a sustainable agricultural industry must therefore be thoroughly integrated with management of the ecological resource in the locality.

Important considerations for sustainable agriculture include:

- Utilizing of crops and practices that can support the soil management and prevent erosion
- Establishing irrigation techniques and husbandry that can maximize production within sustainable parameters
- Controlling of livestock impact, as used practice is shown to be causing degradation of local environment
- Building information programmes that illustrate the connection between fertilizers, pesticides and water pollution and setting appropriate control of these chemicals

Furthermore, two more recent documents for the strategic development and management of Butrint National Park have been produced, Butrint Management Plan 2007 – 2012-Draft, and Butrint National Park Management Plan – Environment sector.

In the Butrint Management Plan 2007 – 2012-Draft the Community living within the Butrint National Park is considered an intrinsic part of the Park's resource. The integration and participation of the community in the Butrint National Park is fundamental to the long-term survival and protection of the site. The community should benefit from the success of the Park and in return it should work with the Park to protect both the archaeology and the environment. For this to happen, the Park should consult the community on issues of mutual importance and work with the community to implement strategies and programmes that are of mutual benefit.

Whereas, the Butrint National Park Management Plan – Environment sector includes in its management goals states the raise of public awareness, increase of local community involvement in decision making and benefits from the use and conservation of the biological and landscape diversity of the Butrint national park

Herein, in the management structure of the park is proposed the appointment of a Community Mobilization officer. As well the plan proposes the establishment of a "Management Committee" that would enable the representation of local community interests, since the Committee will effectively act as the "official" meeting point and contact between the Park inhabitants and the Park administration.

3. So far Achievements

All documents of strategic planning and development of Butrint National Park have recognized and emphasized that the community is an important resource for the preservation and enhancement of the cultural and natural values of the park. Within this concept, the community and interest groups have been involved in the management planning process and in their vision they saw Butrint Park to meet the economic and social needs of the communities while preserving its identity.

In this framework a series of initiatives and projects have been undertaken and developed:

- **Community Based Projects:** Since 2004, a series of project for development of community based tourism initiatives have been carried out. The main objective of this project was to assist the protection of the park values by engaging the communities in sustainable income generating activities linked with the park resources. Pilot initiatives such as Handicrafts, Boat tours and B&B were developed. This project became a bridge of communication between the park and the communities. Some of the activities were successful and they are still running others have failed to develop not because they did not have the potentials, but mainly because there was not enough commitment to ensure continuity and sustainability.
- **Community Opened Day:** From 2005 to 2007 there was organized a special event called "The Community Opened Day". This event had as a main objective to enhance community cohesion and raise awareness among them on the need for protection of the park by improving their knowledge on the park values and assets. In this event the community members were offered to participate in activities such as the boat rides, guided visits to the main archaeological site, guided visits to the recently excavated sites, handicrafts and agriculture products fair, entertainment with games and traditional folk music and dances.
- **Support the Development of the Villages:** A series of initiatives were undertaken which aimed to support the development of the villages and affirm the park's role as a sustainable development catalyst for the area. The local school of Vrina was reconstructed with fundraising by the Park. In 2007 another initiative to reconstruct

sports grounds in the local schools was undertaken in the school of Vrina, Xarra and Mursia. In 2008, the project for the construction of the Community Center in Mursia was supported, and as well trees were planted in the village centers of Mursia, Xarra, Vrina and Shendelli.

- **Support sustainable development:** A pilot initiative to support sustainable farming was undertaken in 2007 for the use of biodegradable mulch in watermelon production. Watermelon was the main cultivation crop until 2010 and at the same time main pollutant because of the quantity of plastic that was used for the cultivation and then left in the fields. To lower this impact, a farm of watermelon cultivation with biodegradable mulch was supported. Local farmers followed the whole process in order to understand the reliability and effectiveness of this practice in the local farms. The results of the experiment were positive in terms of reliability and productivity, but the cost of the material was too high comparing the conventional material and so a reimbursement scheme was necessary for startup this practice. Another initiative in this framework was the support of Shen Delli community by planting 600 fruit trees in the village.

- **Rangers service:** From 2000 – 2005, the park had a rangers service that had as main responsibility to safeguard the territory. This was a pioneering initiative for parks in Albania, as it differed from the traditional guarding service of the forestry department. Butrint National Park rangers aimed to achieve the park protection through the increase of communication and relationships with the community and by improving the knowledge of community on rules and restrictions rather than forcing them. Even though the rangers service was the only formal tool and played an important role in developing the communication and awareness with the community, it unfortunately ceased to operate because of the Albanian law on services procurement changed.

4. What is missing?

Despite the efforts to build up initiatives and commitment to interact with the community and the broad recognition and acceptance that the community is an important resource for the preservation and enhancement of the cultural and natural values of the park, substantial elements are missing.

Studying the existing documents for strategic planning and management of Butrint National Park and the observation of the current situation, the below points are pointed out as the most obvious elements that are missing in the chain:

- **Community involvement for the management of Butrint National Park:** The current management structure of Butrint National Park is highly centralized and doesn't have any flexibility for the involvement of the community in the management of the park.

The decision making is done by the Board of Butrint which is compounded only by central governmental bodies. The lack of representation of the local communities in the highest decision making body is reflected in the executive administration that doesn't seem to have any formal tool to engage the local community in advisory or decision making process apart from the management planning processes.

- **Involvement of Butrint Administration for mobilization and awareness building among the community:** Butrint National Park administration office has been operating with almost the same structure of staff since 2005. Even if there have been extensive changes of the park as the widening of surface of protected area and increase of the intensity of development pressure in the villages, these are not followed up by changes in the staff structure. Currently there is none in the park staff that has responsibility or focus of the work the development of the partnership with the community through mobilization and awareness. The most obvious contact of the community with park representatives is the guard service that is carried out by a contracted private police company. The guarding service is not the same as the rangers service that operated in from 2000 – 2005, because their objective is only the safeguarding of the park and not the commitment with the community.

- **Funding and investments from the park on the community based activities:** There have been a series of initiatives for the development of community based activities, that have been carried out with the support and funding of outside donors and organization. Even if the park has been always considered a partner in these projects, it has not funded or cofounded any of these activities. Such action is important for ensuring the sustainability and development of the pilot initiatives that may require a longer-term support in order to become self-sustained. The lack of funding and investments from the park administration has been a primary constraint for the institutional involvement of the park in the community enterprise development.

- **Park influence and control over the development in the villages:** Despite the effort that has been undertaken through the development of community enterprise and awareness, there is no apparent influence of Butrint National Park to advocate sustainable development in the villages. The park has achieved to some extent to enforce the control of development within the borders of the protected area. Within the urban areas in and around the park territory, the influence of the park over development is inexistent.

5. Why?

In order to ensure that future planning will ensure better achievement, it is very important to answer to this question. Below are listed few speculative answers that will need further analysis:

- Lack of will/perception from the central governmental bodies and the current Management Board for the need to provide the administration office with resources needed to involve and interact with the communities
- Lack of will/capacities from the park administration to implement strategic management and development plans
- Lack of knowledge and perception among the community regarding the importance of the preservation of cultural and natural values of Butrint National Park

6. Actions to be undertaken

Some of the most obvious actions to be carried out in order to ensure that the community becomes a resource for the sustainable development and preservation of the culture and natural values of Butrint are:

- Establish a community based management/advisory committee
- Appoint a community officer for community awareness and mobilization
- Develop a community outreach program for education and awareness building related to Butrint National Park
- Develop a “Sustainable Community Fund” to support community based initiatives
- Develop institutional partnership and representation of the park within the local government to influence and control the urban development

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