

PROPOSALS FOR PROTECION OF THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
ON THE ISLAND OF BRAČ

*“Territories of the future, landscape identification and assessment:
an exercise in democracy”*

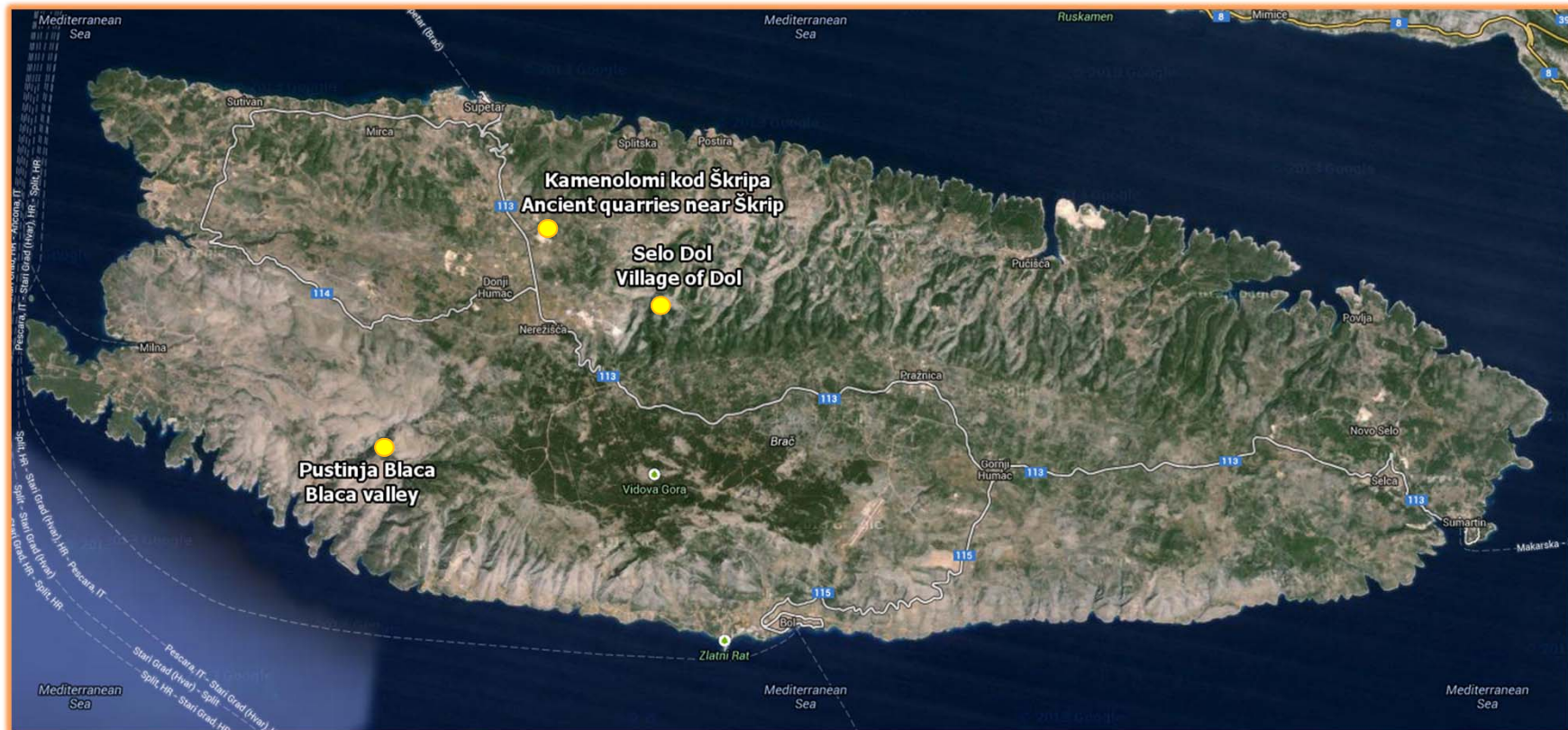
Cetinje, Montenegro, October 2013



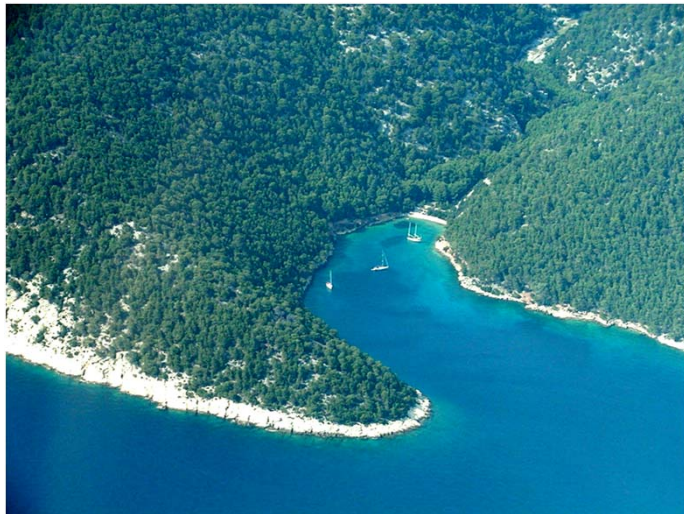
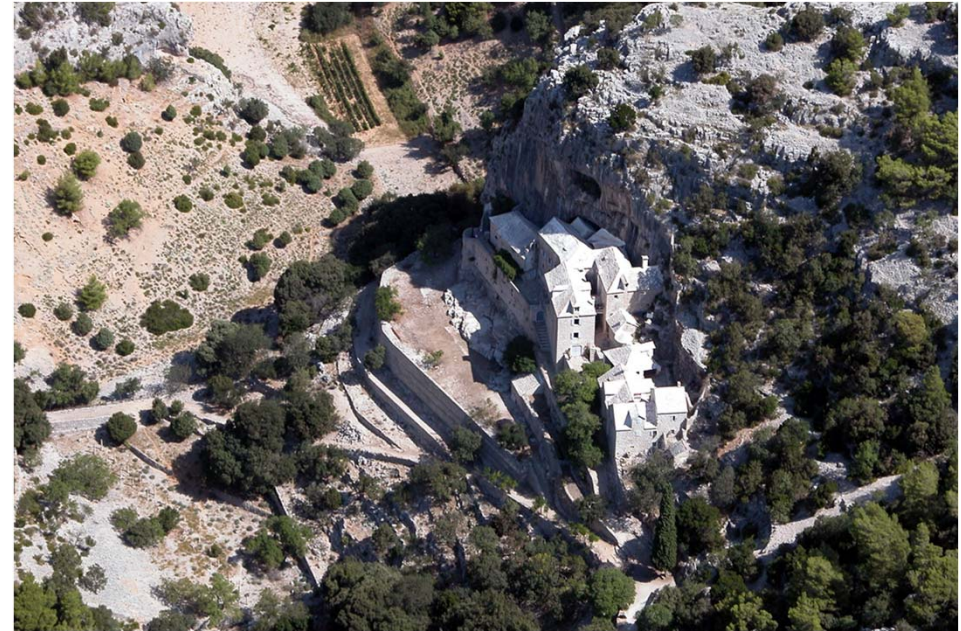
Vanja Kovačić, Ph. D
Case Study



The island of Brač is one of the largest islands of the Adriatic archipelago located close to the middle coast of Dalmatia. Well preserved rural villages built of stone and the art of building drystone and stone roofs, as well as the entire cultivated landscape which through human work and maintenance gained a harmonious balance between man and nature, particularly stand out in this series.



BLACA VALLEY WITH THE BLACA HERMITAGE COMPLEX

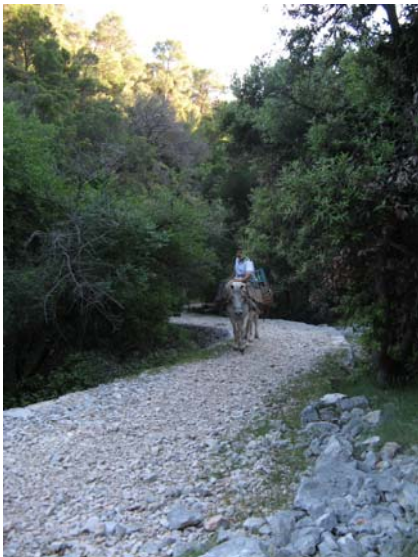


The Valley of Blaca stretches from Vidova Gora, which is the highest peak of the island of Brač, to Blaca Bay on the south coast, and is a specific project for the protection of the cultural landscape in the centre of which is the former hermitage monastery called the *Pustinja Blaca* (Blaca Desert).



The Blaca hermitage, with its total inventory, functions as an ethno-ecological museum. The monastery contains the former astronomical observatory and all of its equipment and library.

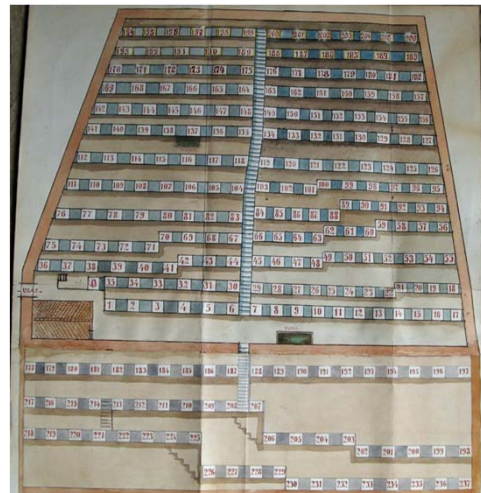
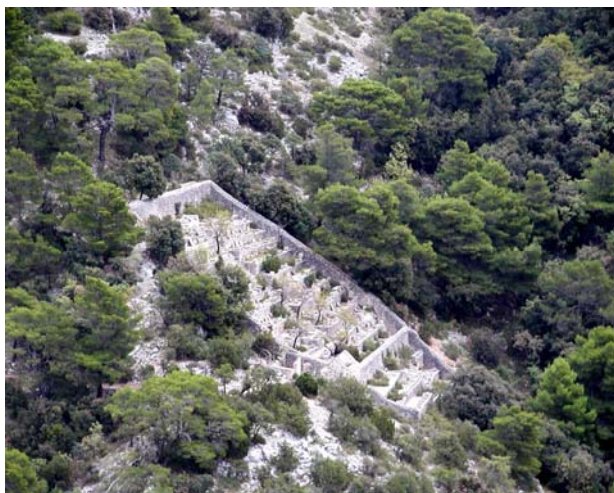




The entire economic basis of the former hermitage has been preserved within this autarkic complex with large properties.



The revitalization project consists of the recreation of the historic landscape in the whole area of Blaca valley, the restoration of drywalls and paths, terraced land bounded by piles containing traditional cultures, reconstruction of the apiary with more than three hundred stone beehives, as well as pools and alternative water sources.





The education program, as once elementary school for children from villages around, will have various activities such as lectures, seminars for young people, students and scholars.

The Blaca hermitage was turned from distant area into a popular destination, attracting wide interest among the local population and visitors.



ANCIENT QUARRIES IN THE WIDER ŠKRIP AREA TO THE PORT OF SPLITSKA

The prehistoric hillfort settlement of Škrip in the interior of the island of Brač became particularly important in Roman times because of the stone with exceptional characteristics in its surrounding area, which was used for the construction of Diocletian's Palace in Split.

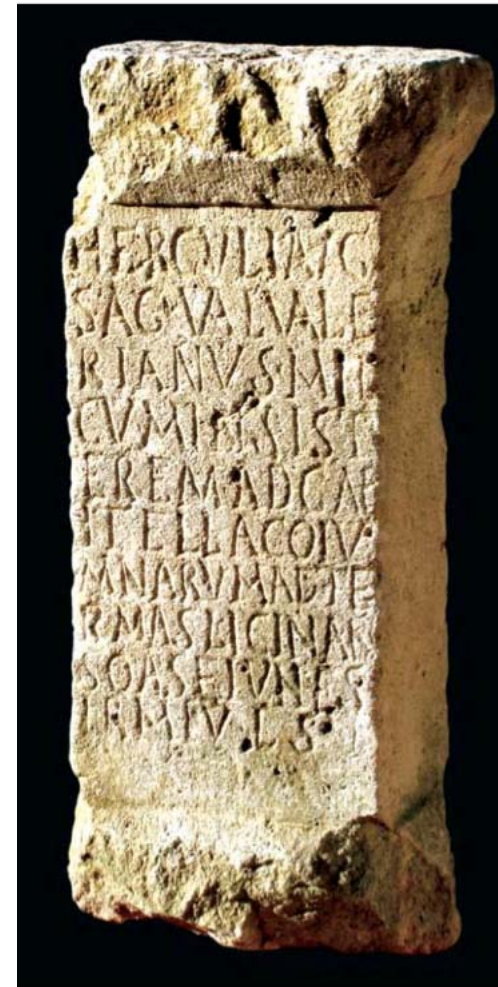


Stone blocks from the quarries were transported by stone ramps to the port of Splitska and loaded on boats sailing to various destinations: from Salona to Sirmium and Antioch.





There are pieces of rock preserved in the quarries which show traces of being treated with hand tools, along with unfinished and damaged reliefs of heroes and dieties, as well as the relief of Hercules, the patron of stonecutters.

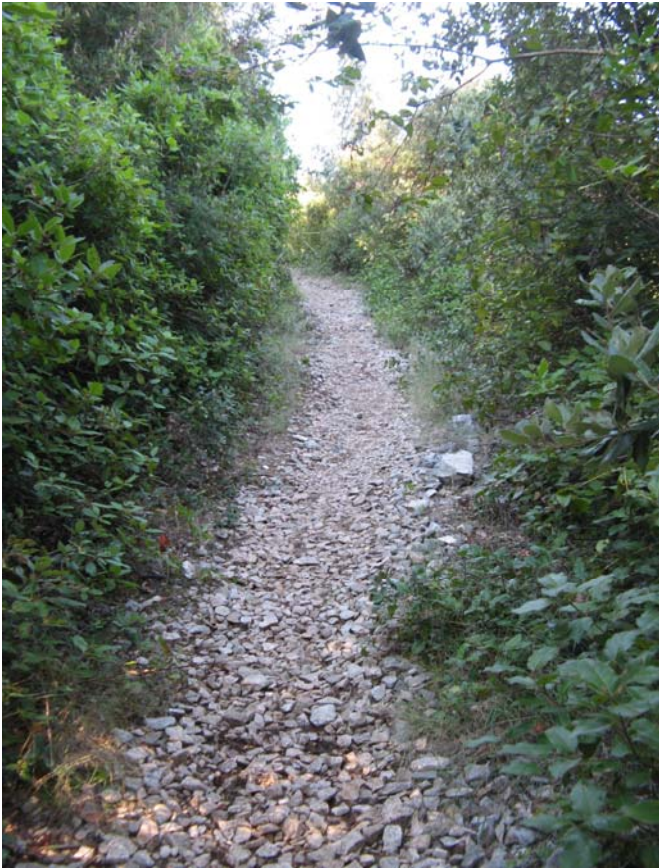


HERCULI ANO
SAGVAIALE
RIANVS MI
CVMI SIST
IREMADCA
ITELLACOIV
MNAVMNTE
RMAS LICINAR
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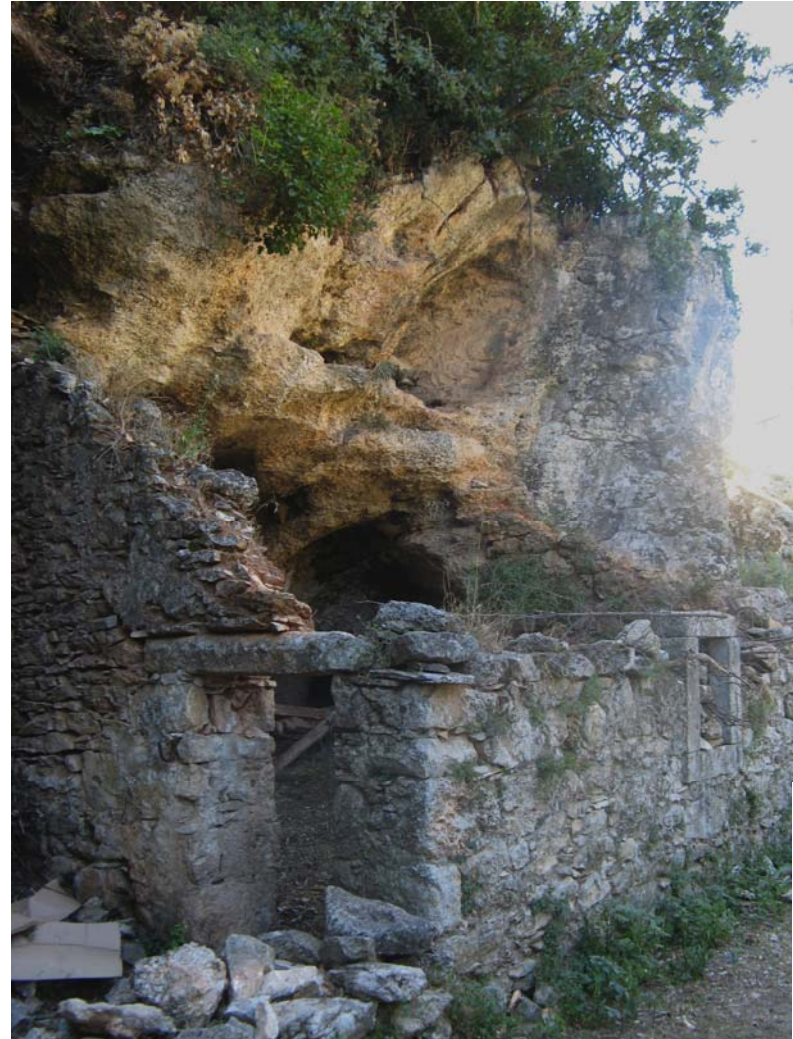
The figure of Hercules carved in the stone is cult relief of the deity feasting in his natural environment.

With raising awareness of a natural heritage and of industrial archaeology, so far the increasing interest for Roman quarrying traditions and skills, these sites were recognised as important destinations of cultivated landscape. Recently, a path has been cleared, and a tourist-archaeological route has been marked leading to the Roman quarry with the relief of deity.



THE RURAL VILLAGE OF DOL WHICH HAS THE STATUS OF AN ETHNO-ECOLOGICAL VILLAGE

The first settlements of Dol were in the caves at the end of the longest island field. The present houses are based on, and partially built of specific ruddy sediment mixed with large pebbles which, because of its texture, is called *hrapočuša* (rough stone).



These geological formations on the outside parted with walls, were once the first settlements that would later become stables for livestock.





Small houses built of *hrapócuša* still have their original wooden roof structure covered in hand-cut stone slabs.





The higher areas in the immediate facility contain shepherd lofts for tending their flocks in the warmer part of the year, with pens, puddles and pools, along with characteristic shelter for the shepherds called *bunje*.





This settlement has a specific tradition of making the *hrapoćuša* cake (similar to the sediment rock), which is registered in the national list of intangible cultural heritage.

The project aims to reinforce local identity and to involve the whole population for sustainable use of the village inheritance and conserve the historic landscape of the area.



THANK YOU

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