Regional Heritage Plan

Pejë/Peć, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Dečane, Istog/Istok, Junik, and Gjakovë/Dakovica

2012-2015

“Communities, Places, Stories and Landscapes”
Regional Heritage Plan for Kosovo West

Pejë/Peć, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Dečane, Istog/Istok, Junik, and Gjakovë/Dakovica

2012-2015

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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Foreword

Heritage is all around us, forming the background and foundation to contemporary life. It is not just the obvious monuments and artefacts that comprise a community’s cultural inheritance, but also the ways of life, traditions, landscapes, natural features, species, songs, dances, legends, handicrafts, games and pastimes that also give coherence and understanding to a community. Heritage is inextricably woven with the people and the place. It is the task of a Heritage Plan to encourage the imagination of communities and influence the way they perceive and utilise that heritage.

Similar to the principles of sustainable development, consideration of heritage should form a part of overall strategies for broad issues of integrated development at both local and institutional levels. The European Union/Council of Europe Joint Project – Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK) has sought to engage local communities more directly with their heritage, while supporting the creation of policy, based on agreed standards and providing assistance in the implementation through a wide array of instruments and projects.

This Heritage Plan ties the diverse ways in which heritage touches parts of life into a working strategy for the future. Just as heritage belongs to all – meaning different things to different people – so has the Heritage Plan been based upon an intensely participatory process that encouraged local actors to play an increasingly important role in maintaining the heritage of their own communities and planning for its future. The Plan calls for coordinated action among all parties by activating local groups, stakeholders and communities to engage directly with heritage, and use the technical as well as social and economic tools that can be employed to ensure its protection. It seeks to pass on not only the heritage itself to future generations, but also the means by which its protection and maintenance can be continued.

The Heritage Plan for Kosovo West explores ways to mediate between the local level and the global. It is a community-based process, promoting the responsible use of local resources and being managed from within. Setting an example in Kosovo, it pioneers a coordinated action to share experiences and pool energies and resources. In this way, the production of this document has been highly significant in encouraging wide participation in the region. I hope that it will set a precedent and a stimulus within Kosovo for the creation of a Kosovo-wide Heritage Plan as a strategic document that will be led from the bottom up, but with the encouragement and endorsement of all the relevant institutions and authorities.

Robert Palmer
Director of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity
Council of Europe
Strasbourg
Get life!

All of us who have visited the artisan fair in the center square of Pejë/Peć or the Big Bazaar in Gjakovë/Bakovica and have been fascinated by the authentic wisdom of the handicrafts and variety of traditional food and herb teas, don’t really need lectures on the power of cultural and natural heritage – because we have experienced it in its best edition: done by the people and for the people! But the fact that such fairs happen, is not just a question of tradition. It was also the concrete result of a very contemporary joint program of support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK), financed mainly by the European Union’s Instrument of Pre-Accession and implemented by the Council of Europe. The June 2012 events in Pejë/Peć and Gjakovë/Bakovica were part of this program – and when one has to foreword the Heritage Plan for the region of Kosovo West the words about natural and intangible heritage in Kosovo West immediately get very concrete colors, shapes and even flavors of ... aromatic herbs.

And that’s exactly why such plans are conceived, drafted, discussed, approved and published: in order to come to life, to experience colors and flavors. Or even more ambitious: to inject some new, long forgotten practices, or reinvent some old, newly forgotten values, into the everyday life of citizens. You may call this multicultural diversity, sustainable development or better quality of life: the point is that citizens always benefit from good ideas being put into practice. This plan was conceived in order to become a guiding document to enable local communities to use natural and cultural heritage for local development and to improve their quality of life. By doing so, the awareness of our heritage, including intangible heritage, becomes very, very tangible: it begins to create new knowledge, new jobs, new business opportunities and – above all – to generate new ideas among new generations.

If there is a place where tradition is both centuries-old and only years-young, then it would be the one with the NEWBORN sign on one of its squares. I sincerely hope that this Heritage Plan will encourage all stakeholders to prove that they can be both proudly anchored in their inherited past, and well oriented into the future. With this understanding they would all participate in a process that is not just another “pilot project”, but a process that can serve as an inspiration to other flights through the difficult territories of our contemporary crisis. And that’s what plans – and friends – are for.

Samuel Žbogar
Head of the European Union Office and EU Special Representative in Kosovo
Pristina
INTRODUCTION

We strive towards communities where cultural and natural heritage, as well as the diversity of cultures is accepted as being essential to the development of conditions to facilitate social cohesion and economic development. Genuine involvement of communities in their daily life practices, where they are active participants of decision making processes for economic and social development, is vital in helping us to approach the complexities of living together. Through intercultural dialogue we have the opportunity to create the necessary mutual understanding to relate to each other and redefine our relationships. Our existence today and our future perspectives are often influenced by our past and what we inherit from the past.

Heritage might simply be described as the cultural and natural assets and resources civilisations inherit from the past – at local level heritage is a woven montage of communities, places, stories and landscapes. How we personally perceive heritage largely depends on our age – children tend to associate heritage with anything “old” or historical, adults associate heritage with identity and the more senior adults tend to associate heritage with the “past” and a “loss” of values. But all ages recognise the importance of heritage at some level.

Recognising the importance of heritage does not always translate into valuing and understanding heritage. Heritage has also been subject to destruction; sometimes consciously for complex reasons, or unconsciously as it was left to deteriorate, disintegrate and disappear. Acknowledgement of the value of diverse heritage, honouring and placing it in the right place in history is a challenging but an exciting process, if managed responsibly.

The Heritage Plan for Kosovo West is a product of a regional community initiative of the Local Economic Development component of the EU/CoE Joint Project – Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK). It intends to identify the most appropriate strategies to advance the objectives in the context of developing a sustainable heritage tourism component within an overall tourism strategy for the region.

The Local Economic Development (LED) component of the PCDK project has been inspired by and closely associated with the Local Development Pilot Project (LDPP) of Council of Europe’s Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe. While the PCDK project followed a more specific focus on heritage tourism, it always sought to maintain linkages with the regional programme to complement efforts made in the countries in the region.

The development of a Heritage Plan as an idea was influenced by the successful example of the Irish Heritage Council model and experts from the Irish Heritage Council assisted the process of shaping the Heritage Plan Kosovo West as well as providing support for capacity development of the local stakeholders in Kosovo West. The Heritage Plan arose as a key recommendation of a feasibility study completed in early 2011, following a data collection exercise completed in 2010. The Plan represents a rational continuation and co-ordination of the preliminary heritage tourism actions prompted by the feasibility study.

A systematic structured approach was adopted for the feasibility study including a data evaluation exercise, which was then systematically analysed based on the local strengths,
weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to the development of sustainable heritage tourism in the area. Pilot actions that took place simultaneously in the six municipalities of the region made a significant contribution to the development of the plan.

The outcome of an examination of optional strategy scenarios was the adoption of an ‘Integrated Sectors’ approach which involves the integration of Heritage Tourism development with the development of the general tourism sector in the region.

The strategy focuses on awareness-raising, education, training and suggested actions in relation to cultural and natural heritage and addresses practical issues embracing site preservation, restoration, signage, heritage information and site security issues all through a facilitated partnership and co-operation process involving all central, municipal, community, heritage and tourism stakeholders and players in the region.

The Heritage Plan contains seven sections: emphasising the essence of heritage at the heart of community life; providing a brief description of the heritage of Kosovo West; introducing the idea of heritage and a heritage plan, and describing how this heritage plan was developed. Further, it reflects upon changing attitudes and approaches of the local stakeholders throughout the process and highlights the strategic consideration in development processes. Finally, it sets out objectives and associated achievable actions with a clear ‘roadmap’ on how to implement the plan.

The PCDK project’s efforts to highlight the organic linkage between heritage and diversity manifests itself by minimizing the distinction between tangible, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage through a holistic, participative and integrated approach where all the communities have a voice and place. This is essential for social inclusion and sustainable economic development.

At the PCDK project, we believe that Heritage Plan could have a considerable impact on the local development of Kosovo West and present a positive example for the other regions in Kosovo as well as the Local Development Pilot Project participants of the regional programme.

Hakan Shearer Demir  
PCDK Team Leader  

Terry O’Regan  
CoE Expert
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- Centre for Cultural Heritage, Pejë/Peć
- Centre for Cultural Heritage, Gjakovë/Bakovica
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To PCDK Local Economic Development Team:

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## List of Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOFOR-IQC</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Forestry Indefinite Quality Contract</td>
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<td>CCH</td>
<td>Centres for Cultural Heritage</td>
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<td>CHL</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage Law</td>
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<td>CHwB</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage without Borders</td>
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<td>CoE</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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<td>CRIS</td>
<td>Comparative Regional Integration Studies</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>EP</td>
<td>European Partnership</td>
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<td>EPAP</td>
<td>European Partnership Action Plan</td>
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<td>ERA</td>
<td>Environmentally Responsible Group</td>
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<td>EU</td>
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<td>EU CARDS programme</td>
<td>European Union Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</td>
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<td>LDPP</td>
<td>Local Development Pilot Project</td>
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<td>LSP</td>
<td>Law on Spatial Planning</td>
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<td>MARD</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
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<td>MCYS</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports</td>
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<td>MEST</td>
<td>Ministry of Education Science and Technology</td>
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<td>MESP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning</td>
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<td>MLGA</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government Administration</td>
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<td>MTI</td>
<td>Ministry of Trade and Industry (Department of Tourism),</td>
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<td>MTT</td>
<td>Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication,</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>PCDK</td>
<td>Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo</td>
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<td>RWG</td>
<td>Regional Working Group</td>
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<td>SOC</td>
<td>Serbian Orthodox Church</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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“A heritage plan maps a road of reconnection, re-joining and reconciliation between people, their land and their heritage. The plan reaches out to the wide diaspora of each municipality to write a joined-up story of wisdom, understanding and progress, providing all citizens with a dynamic process for sharing that story with their neighbours and visitors.”
Section 1

Heritage at the Heart of Community Life

1.1 What is Heritage?
Heritage is everything we have inherited from the past including ‘monuments, archaeological and other heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, geology, heritage gardens and parks, inland waterways, genealogy, folklore, oral heritage and local history.

Heritage is a vital part of our identity and sense of place. It is an intrinsic part of our everyday life, and an exceptional resource offering employment, recreation, health, learning and enjoyment. The social value of heritage is priceless in terms of community engagement, pride in the character of our streetscapes and landscapes, and in the need to care for our everyday environment.

There is sound economic rationale in supporting heritage and heritage tourism has a vital role to play in developing economies. Heritage tourism delivers employment and sustainable financial income when it is utilised as part of a comprehensive development programme.

Heritage embraces both tangible and intangible elements that reflect the culture and creativity of human communities since time immemorial as well as the rich diversity and beauty of natural heritage.

1.2 The Value of Heritage
In the past, heritage was often wrongfully perceived as being solely the responsibility of governments and academics. But just as there is central ownership of heritage, there is also communal and even personal ownership of heritage. Most households will have treasured ‘family heritage’ by way of furniture, ornaments, books and documents, stories, songs, history, and even clothes that have been handed down from generation to generation. Heritage is a vital ingredient in educational programmes throughout the world. It is thus recognised at all levels of society as having a value not always measurable in monetary terms.
The complex ownership and attached value dimensions of heritage may explain why it is so often under threat. Its symbolic values can result in targeted destruction in conflict situations. Its perceived lack of monetary value can result in ill-informed destruction or overlooked deterioration particularly where its significance has not been officially recognised, researched, identified and protected from interference and environmental damage. An awareness of such threats to heritage must be built into any strategy aimed at placing heritage at the core of the value system of all societies. Responding to such threats and realising the maximum value of heritage for all citizens requires adequate funding and a versatile approach to sourcing and justifying the necessary funds.

It is fortunate therefore that throughout the world today, communal heritage has an important economic value at central, municipal and community level as an attraction for tourists and, increasingly, for investors. Most, if not all, states have heritage sites of international significance, but usually these are few in number and whilst their very significance ensures a flow of visitors, they usually have capacity constraints and in themselves rarely provide the basis of a viable, sustainable national heritage tourism sector. All progressive, responsible communities therefore have a strong incentive to engage proactively and creatively with their wider heritage.

Taking action in the field of heritage involves identifying its social, cultural and economic value. Through five essential steps, communities can

- identify and record their heritage,
- ensure that it is safeguarded,
- integrate it into the living culture of today,
- where possible they assign it a new sustainable use
- respect and accept their responsibility to pass their heritage intact to future generations

This requires a strategic structured approach at central, regional, municipal and community level and is at its most successful and sustainable where it is based on local communities sharing their valued heritage with visitors, rather than being solely based on commercial interests exploiting a cultural heritage resource as a tourism product.

The Heritage Plan approach represents a practical, yet sustainable, framework strategy to facilitate and coordinate the five key actions identified above in order to realise the full communal value of heritage for society.

1.3 What is a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan is a strategy for the identification, protection, conservation, enhancement, interpretation and sustainable management of heritage, and applies at central, regional and municipal level. It is an agreed, realistic action plan, with reference to delivery mechanisms and budgetary requirements. At the different levels, actions can be undertaken by one group or body, or by a number of groups in partnership. At a regional level a heritage plan can take the form of an overall strategic regional plan accompanied by a number of municipality-based plans. Whatever the scale, it should identify priorities for action by all stakeholders, over a three-year period, and should include a mechanism for review and evaluation.

A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs at central, regional and municipal level, and to address them locally. It is intended to influence the actions and activities of all the key players and stakeholders involved with the heritage, and to raise

The exhibition of the Ethnographic Museum is displayed in one of the most characteristic traditional residential buildings of Gjakovë/Bakovica, built in 1810. As a well-preserved monument with a rich collection of artefacts, it is an attractive destination for tourists. There is need for appropriate promotional materials for the exhibition as well as for the monument building.
awareness of that heritage, its value and its potential. It is therefore both a strategic statement about what the population wants to achieve in terms of heritage management and conservation over a 3 year period, and a list of actions to be undertaken to achieve the strategic aims and objectives.

1.4 Why have a Heritage Plan?
Heritage conservation and management is the responsibility not just of central authorities or local municipalities, but of everyone within the community. It often works best when undertaken as a partnership involving all interested groups and individuals. A Heritage Plan is an effective way to reach consensus on how best to conserve and manage heritage collaboratively in a way that focuses a range of collective energies and initiatives for the benefit of that heritage and the participating communities. It is a coordinating mechanism that provides a strategic context for communal actions, to ensure the greatest benefits are afforded to the heritage resource.

The efforts and initiatives of local groups and central authorities can find a broader context within a Heritage Plan and facilitate agreement on the identification of priorities for the distribution of available funding for the conservation and promotion of heritage.

1.5 Who is a Heritage Plan for?
A Heritage Plan is for the people, for all of the relevant agencies and groups of the region, and for municipalities. It is underpinned by the principle of shared responsibility for and ownership of heritage.

1.6 What is the Aim of a Heritage Plan?
A Heritage Plan aims to secure benefits for the local community through increased awareness, appreciation, enjoyment and sustainable use, economic and otherwise of their rich cultural and natural heritage. The plan can also be used to gain the support of the key players and to forge new partnerships in protecting, raising awareness of, and presenting heritage. It enables a range of players to engage in a discourse on the importance of heritage in terms of its global, cultural, educational, academic, economic, recreational, aesthetic and personal values, in addition to its own intrinsic values. The plan also recognises the value of sharing information and responsibility in relation to that heritage.

The Heritage Plan is based upon an integrated approach to the identification, protection, conservation, management and presentation of the heritage assets. It should seek to holistically incorporate the various aspects of that heritage, looking at the historic, natural, cultural, social and economic environment as a whole, rather than attempting to deal with them in a compartmentalised way. This is a fresh concept of heritage.

1.7 How is the concept of heritage embodied in a Heritage Plan?
A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the presence of heritage all around us, rather than viewing it as something that is just visited on holidays or at weekends. In putting forward such a concept, the Heritage Plan should deal with the environment as a whole, rather than seeking only to protect the best – or most obvious – examples of heritage.

To date legislation, funding and administrative efforts have tended to concentrate on the protection of the most ‘significant’ aspects and examples of heritage. Whilst the importance of these sites, structures and species justifies their careful protection, the heritage plan also recognises heritage outside these designated areas. It acknowledges the impact of the past
and its peoples on every aspect of the landscape, visible in its appearance and its morphology. It is often the undesignated or ‘ordinary’ portion of the landscape that provides the context for important designated sites and structures – both in terms of space and meaning – allowing them to be more fully understood. Such a concept of heritage is closer to the principles of sustainable development, representing a wider understanding of heritage and making it more relevant to our modern lives. It also allows for a more coherent understanding of the environment, the interactions between the different aspects of heritage, and greater public participation in the debate about what is important, what should be protected, and how it should be presented to local, national and international visitors. Such a holistic approach invites a wider set of values to inform the debate.

1.8 What does a Heritage Plan contain?
A Heritage Plan reviews the actions that may have already been undertaken and features a list of further actions which are to be undertaken by a range of bodies over the three-year period covered by the plan. It contains a list of broad strategic objectives which such actions will help to achieve. Insofar as possible the plan indicates who will carry out each action and the anticipated timescale for each. The plan may indicate funding sources, but may not indicate the cost of each proposed action.

The Heritage Plan does not necessarily include actions which are specific to a building, site or place, or the stabilisation of a particular monument. In general the Heritage Plan contains actions which reflect priorities identified in relation to collecting data, raising awareness, promoting best practice and presentation.

1.9 Sustainable Heritage
The economics of heritage is a double-edged sword. Protecting, restoring and managing heritage is an expensive process, and few governments in the world have the resources to fund such important work unless central funding is augmented by income generated by the
heritage resource. Internationally, heritage tourism has become a vital mechanism for generating much needed direct and - more importantly - indirect income to support the heritage sector.

There is a substantial and proven tourism market for professionally-presented sustainably-managed heritage tourism products. In developing countries tourism in many cases generates over 20% of a state’s GDP and it is the primary source of foreign exchange for the 49 least developed countries in the world.

In Ireland, a small country comparable in certain respects with Kosovo, 40% of tourist expenditure is attributable to the historic environment. Annually 2.5 million people visit its houses and castles, and 2 million people visit its monuments. The income generated by heritage tourism arises directly by way of admission fees and other associated merchandise sales, but the real economic benefit arises indirectly from the local spend on food, accommodation and other services.

It must be noted, however, that sustainable tourism - where the attraction is managed and protected while its value is being realised in a responsible manner - requires a planned approach from the beginning of the development of a heritage tourism product. It has to be recognised that heritage tourism gives rise to extra wear and tear on the heritage resource and increases the level of maintenance and care required.

It is also essential to note that the small and medium business enterprise sector has been the backbone of the European economy, and is embodied by the approach of this plan. While large corporations tend to selectively and intensively exploit the prime heritage sites at the expense of extensive development throughout the wider community, the SME sector thrives in a heritage tourism environment and is inherently more sustainable at a local level.

TRADITIONAL CRADLE MAKING, Gjakovë/Dakovica

The cradle is one of the characteristic products of the woodworkers of Gjakovë/Dakovica. Its production is a long process which begins with purchase of raw materials - timber of the beech and fir trees that in the past were obtained from the mountains of the region. When the wooden elements of the cradle are assembled and glued together, the cradle is painted. The decoration involves combining 12 different colours, with dark red being the dominant colour. The final, floral decoration has been inherited through each artisan family.

The craft and all rituals related to this process are in danger of being lost because only two families still make cradles in Gjakovë/Dakovica. Three or four cradles are made every week, while the buyers are mostly the inhabitants of the villages in the Has region. There is an urgent need to prepare a plan to safeguard the craft and to find solutions to this problem; for example, the production of this craft could be modified for tourism purposes.
Mirusha’s waterfall, Klinë/Klina
The heritage in the western part of Kosovo – a territory administratively divided into six municipalities: Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Dečane, Istog/Istok, and Junik/Junik – is a testimony to its rich and complex history, and the diversity of landscape forms that have created a specific topography for the region.

The cultural heritage of the main economic centres of Pejë/Peć and Gjakova/Djakovica represents a dynamic historical development which has been influenced by the connection with urban concepts and architectural designs of oriental trade centres within the Ottoman Empire. The preserved structures of the trade markets in these two cities shed light on the specific lifestyles of generations of craftsmen and customers who had come together from different parts of the region.

Long-lasting and effective restoration work undertaken in what was at one time one of the largest Ottoman markets in the Balkans – the Grand Bazaar of Gjakovë/Djakovica – revived the construction traditions of a number of building types: in religious facilities (the Hadum Mosque), for modest wooden street shops, on characteristic buildings for accommodation and refreshment (such as the Haraqia’s Inn and the Tekke of Sheh Emin), in residential quarters (the Sina family house, now the Ethnographic Museum), and on several bridges across the Erenik river (the Terezi (Tailor’s) Bridge, the Tabaku (Tanner’s) Bridge and Tatiqi’s Bridge).

Although most of the structures comprising the core of the Pejë/Peć bazaar have not been preserved, those that have survived and been restored are recognised as historical monuments of great importance. These include the Bajrakli mosque, the Hadji Bey Ham-mam, the Tahir Bey mansion (now the Ethnographic Museum), and the residential houses of the Goskaj, Zenel Beu and Qamil Limani families. A testimony of community participation in the development of the social and economic life – and therefore urban and architectural characteristics – of Pejë/Peć in the second half of the 19th century is the donation by Haxhi Zeka (a local citizen) for the building of the first elementary school in the city and for the construction of one of the largest mill complexes in the area.
One distinctive type of heritage building in this area is the kulla. Depending on the financial means of its owners, these fortified stone towers can be two to four storeys high and found in both urban and rural locations. The organization of the interior reflects the lifestyle of the community in which the role of its male members was dominant. In this context the men-only guests’ room (oda) was used for meetings regarding important family or community issues, or to receive visitors. It is commonly the largest internal space, and ornately decorated with wooden carvings, tapestries and other ornaments. It is also often expressed externally through cantilevered or carved stone sections. This residential typology is found in each of the six municipalities, but those that have been preserved are concentrated in the centre of the main settlements. In Deçan/Dečane these belong to the Kuklec, Osdautaj, Mazrekaj, Zymer Himë and Demukaj families; in Junik to the Jah Imerit family; in Istog/Istok to the family of Querim Rugova; in Klinë/Klina to the Mark Jakaj family; in addition to those already mentioned in Gjakovë/Đakovica, and Pejë/Pć.

The rich social life of the population, concentrated in the market but also focused within the family home, is also expressed through the numerous celebrations, traditional events and production of unique handcrafts that continue today. In the process of recognising and promoting this “intangible (living) heritage”, many characteristic elements, people, groups and individuals have been identified through events and performances. These include “The Rugova Games” – a performance of participants’ skills and the process of hat-making by one of the few traditional artisans remaining in the municipality of Pejë/Pć; the family tradition of weaving on a loom and making handkerchiefs and scarves, as well as the mountain ritual of sheep shearing, in association with Qelë Shaban Bicaj’s Mill.

Qelë Shaban Bicaj’s Mill near the village of Vrela/Vrelo, Istog/Istok
The Mill of Qelë Bicaj forms part of the Vrela/Vrelo Mill complex. It is a 300 year old watermill that still functions today. The mill is located on the creek below the Vrela/Vrelo spring and is supplied with water throughout the year. Due to the active functioning of the mill it is recommended that a rehabilitation and management plan be prepared.
Deçan/Dečane; craftsmen still creating and decorating wooden cradles (as found in the Grand Bazaar of Gjakovë/Dakovica); traditional family celebrations to mark the end of harvest season in October in the municipality of Istog/Istok; the making of women's traditional costumes in the municipality of Klinë/Klina; and the highly popular horse games that are held in Junik/Junik.

Two famous monastery complexes, Pejë/Peć Patriarchate and Deçan/Visoki Deçani, also play important roles in the history of this region. They represent the long period of Serbian Orthodox Church’s presence and its importance in safeguarding Orthodox religion during the turbulent times of the Ottoman Empire. The artistic values of the architecture, fresco paintings and icons, dating from 13th – 19th centuries, reflect the great achievements of the Byzantine and Serbian medieval culture as well as the influence of the Western European religious art, and have been recognised at the international level by UNESCO. Considering the historical importance and artistic values of these facilities in the context of specific political circumstances in the region, the sites were inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites in Danger in 2004-2006.

A wealth of rivers and mountain valleys, streams and foothills, overlooked by high mountains, combine in specific landscape forms that provide many possibilities for tourism development and economic benefit. These include: the spring, caves and the canyon of the White Drin river (Drini i Bardhë/Beli Drim), which forms part of the municipalities of Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Dakovica and Deçan/Dečane; the Mirushë/Miruša Waterfall in Klinë/Klina; the lakes of Gjeravica/Ðeravica (Junik) and Radoniq/Radonjikë (Gjakovë/Dakovica); the Shkugëza / Škugza Park (near Gjakovë/Dakovica); the thermal springs in Istog/Istok; the picturesque springs of the Erenik river (in the mountains around Junik); and the Rugova mountains and its spectacular gorge and cave. These are just a few among numerous other examples of great natural beauty within these six municipalities, and which are still undiscovered by the public. They represent an immense resource with combined natural heritage and cultural heritage tourism development potential for the region.
Patriarchate of Peć
3.1 Towards a Heritage Plan – Research and Assessment
The Heritage Plan has evolved as an output of the PCDK project component for a Local Development Pilot Project in the Kosovo West region. It focuses on heritage tourism development, effectively drawing together all the activities of the pilot project into an integrated strategy for the region, including those completed to date and those now proposed for a further three years.

Relating to the methodology, the pilot project was initially structured in five phases:

1. Diagnosis Phase
2. Feasibility Study
3. Pilot Actions
4. Draft Regional Strategy on Tourism Development
5. Establishment of Regional Monitoring Mechanism for Heritage Plan and Management

The project’s progress has responded to the dynamics of the region, and the focus of the latter phases has been more specifically on cultural and natural heritage and its related
tourism potential.
A priority throughout has been the engagement of communities with their common
heritage by means of awareness-raising, promotion, education, and capacity development
activities.

The workflow adopted included the following actions:

The initial diagnosis phase primarily involved a wide-ranging survey undertaken and com-
pleted by UBO Consulting in 2010. This work has generated a comprehensive database of
information on all aspects relating to the possibilities of Heritage Tourism Development in
the Pejë/Peć region.

The feasibility study undertaken throughout 2011 evaluated and assessed the data col-
clected and identified strategies and options that might be pursued to sustainably realise the
value of the rich heritage of the region in social, cultural, educational and economic terms.

Pilot actions were undertaken in parallel with other phases to inform the process and
to draw the communities of the region into active participation in the
process.

This Heritage Plan represents a practical yet sustainable framework
to facilitate a strategy that builds on the work completed to date, and
to underpin the implementation of the actions identified as desirable in
the feasibility study.

3.2 Towards a Heritage Plan – Guidelines & Field Work
From the experience acquired within the first set of actions launched
in 2010 in the design of the feasibility study, the PCDK project team
considered that there was a need to establish a new set of actions ad-
dressing the capacity of the heritage and its environment in the wider
context of strategic planning. The actions related to the development
of a more comprehensive inventory on heritage were undertaken in
2011 by local NGOs, with contributions from the Centres for Cultural
Heritage of Pejë/Peć and Gjakovë/Dakovica, in accordance with criteria
provided by the PCDK project team.

In selecting heritage sites and assets for the pilot actions, all of
the known heritage and diversity of the region were considered as po-

WOOLLY HAT (PLIS) MAKER, PEJË/PEĆ
The wooly hat is an item of traditional
male dress that is used to cover the
head, and is distinctive to the region
in its form and white color. The
making of the plis involves sixteen
phases. Merino sheep wool is the best
material from which to make the plis.
Plis hat-making is a craft in decline and
at risk. One of the few remaining hat
makers is still working in the Old Trade
Market in Pejë/Peć. His willingness to
continue to produce this type of tradi-
tional dress should be supported and
developed, and his skill and knowledge
should be presented and recorded.
Potential attractions that could initiate the development of “alternative tourism sub-sectors”, e.g. cultural, spiritual or eco-tourism. The criteria for the selection of natural and cultural landscapes and historical monuments, sites and living traditions has been implemented according to the assessment of:

- condition of the heritage asset, i.e. its presentation to the wider public
- appropriate access to the heritage asset
- availability of data of evaluated features of the heritage asset
- infrastructural capacity of the surrounding/environment.

The following illustrates the weaknesses in the heritage sectors of the region identified in the SWOT analysis undertaken as a core action in the feasibility study:

**IMMOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:**
- Insufficient information on archaeological sites;
- No marking of archaeological sites
- No road signage to areas of natural and cultural heritage
- Lack of an update and approved comprehensive inventory on building heritage and cultural landscapes
- Lack of an integrated approach to heritage within spatial planning
- Lack of management and rehabilitation programmes

**MOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:**
- Lack of a comprehensive inventory of museum collections
- Lack of promotional materials
- Lack of a systematic approach to the museum collections in conservation, storage, display and interpretation

**INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:**
- No inventory
- Lack of promotional materials of traditional lifestyles of communities
- Lack of organised events and performances
- Lack of support to the practitioners of traditional handicrafts, performances or other products of intangible cultural heritage elements

**LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS FOR PROTECTION OF HERITAGE:**
- Laws: Cultural Heritage Law and Law on Spatial Planning
- 7 Regulations derived from the Cultural Heritage Law
- 7 Guidelines derived from the Cultural Heritage Law

**NATURAL HERITAGE:**
- Insufficient information of the natural beauty and attractions
- Inadequate conservation requirements, and availability to the public
- Lack of an integrated approach towards landscape in planning the heritage areas
- Lack of infrastructure
Lumbardhi/Bistrica river, Rugova gorge
During the course of the PCDK project, a number of activities took place with the active involvement of local stakeholders. A preliminary assessment was undertaken on the impact of the work conducted by the PCDK project, which identified changing attitudes and approaches towards local development and heritage as a result of participating in the project. According to these local stakeholders, the PCDK project contributed to:

- Increasing knowledge and experience among NGOs on cultural heritage and diversity.
- Improving relationships and cooperation between NGOs and institutions.
- Changing the outlook among NGOs and the community that financial rewards are the most important reason to work and be engaged.
- An increased awareness that cultural and natural heritage work requires more volunteer engagement.
- An increased knowledge of the methodology on how to approach cultural heritage, which was not observed in previous projects.
- The multidisciplinary collaboration of people from different sectors in the region alongside experts from different fields and levels.
- The familiarisation of local government with intangible cultural heritage, and increased support to certain events (including the sheep shearing ritual in Deçan/Deçane, and Sofra Gjakovare’ performances in Gjakovë/Dakovica).
- New opportunities for cooperation with other countries in the region.
- Increasing knowledge and awareness among teachers in elementary schools about the value of the cultural heritage and diversity.
- Increasing the willingness and readiness of local stakeholders to continue with the methodology of the PCDK project, offered through workshops, trainings and study visits.
- A regional approach towards cultural heritage, which has been practiced for the first time and has positively influenced decision-makers for further cooperation between the 6 project municipalities.
- The sustaining of an office in the Kosovo West region, the perception of its necessity, and the support by local stakeholders.

Section 4

Changing Attitudes and Approaches

MIRUSHA WATERFALL/CANYON, KLINË/KLINA MUNICIPALITY

The canyon of the Mirusha River has been created by carbon formations from the upper Cretaceous period. Apart from its beautiful scenery and morphology the canyon is also outstanding because of its 13 lakes and 12 cascade falls of differing shapes and heights, located along the course of the river. In 1983 the part of Mirusha river containing the canyon, was designated as a Regional Natural Park.

There is need for a project for sustainable tourism development.
Increasing involvement of minority groups, demonstrating a willingness to collaborate and be engaged in cultural heritage activities with the wider community.
An Integrated Approach to Heritage Planning and Management

The development of viable heritage planning and management in accordance with European norms and standards, with a strong emphasis on community well-being through the active participation of all stakeholders and civil society.

The ‘Integrated Approach / Sectors’ will involve the incorporation of a Heritage Tourism sector within broader tourism development. The strategy will not focus solely on cultural tangible/intangible and natural heritage issues (including site preservation, restoration, signage, heritage information and site security), but will also involve the heritage authorities operating in partnership and cooperation with other tourism and community stakeholders and players.

This approach, and as promoted by the PCDK project, has the potential to address conflicting issues, including the reconciliation and integration of diverse ethnic communities through mutually beneficial sustainable economic and tourism development, whilst maintaining the integrity and pre-eminence of dynamic cultural heritage over time. This expectation will depend on the impetus of the commercial momentum being responsive to communal sensitivities throughout the process.

These strategic considerations are closely inter-connected, and the successful protection of heritage in Kosovo West depends on the degree and effectiveness of cooperation between the public – private partnership. For protection to succeed, it is vital that local communities are fully aware of the importance of what is being protected, why it has this importance, and how the activities of local people can impact on protection. A sound heritage management plan should include diversity, which requires a careful design and planning process. Well-protected, designed and managed heritage assets with proper promotion are essential for the development of sustainable, successful heritage tourism.

The heritage plan framework will be an important catalyst in achieving this desirable outcome through a range of specific strategic approaches.
5.1 Awareness Raising includes:
- Assessment of local structures, influences and issues to better understand the stakeholders’ needs and wants.
- Building capacity among stakeholders to raise local/regional awareness of heritage and diversity issues.
- Cooperation, and guarantee of a certain level of coordination and consistency of approach with relevant partners.
- Promotion of effective knowledge-sharing based on research and facts.
- Ensuring the inclusion and participation of all communities, and accommodation of diverse ideas.
- Planning and undertaking of simultaneous awareness-raising activities with effective outreach to all communities and authorities, with necessary cultural appropriateness.
- Provision of strategies and resources for local awareness campaigns, which are both fun and educational.
- Provision of mechanisms to evaluate impact.

5.2 Protection measures
The key features of the integrated approach to heritage conservation and protection are the following:
- Ensure the effective implementation of comprehensive and up-to-date legislation for the protection of heritage.
- Utilise heritage expertise.
- Develop proper management policies, programmes and plans.
- Maintain ongoing inventory preparation and detailed recording of different categories of cultural heritage in accordance with the criteria provided in the Cultural Heritage Law and the Guidelines on Inventory of Cultural Heritage Assets.
- Monitor the implementation of conservation projects in accordance with established criteria and procedures, and in balance with the reasonable requirements of the owners/occupants and local authorities’ programmes and plans.
- Be aware of the “Archaeological Map” of the region so that preventive action can be taken if construction or other activities are intended to be undertaken in areas with archaeological features.
- Support the development of guidelines to encourage the retention, integration and enhancement of existing cultural and natural heritage.
- Be vigilant, and utilise all opportunities to encourage partnerships on the revitalisation of built heritage between responsible institutions, local authorities and owners.
- Focus on the long term impact in developing an integrated approach towards a sustainable and integrated network of national parks and reserves.

5.3 Planning and Design
Planning and design is a key component of any strategic approach and will involve:
- Thorough assessment with all stakeholders, particularly local communities.
- Realistic analysis of the organisational and operational capacity.
- Increased cooperation and coordination between institutions, civil society and local authorities.

**MAKING OF KERCHIEFS AND SCARVES, DEÇAN/DEČANE MUNICIPALITY**

Kerchiefs and scarves are one of the most attractive features of women’s traditional costume in the Pejë/Pć region. The kerchief is worn on the head; one part is decorated and it is dark brown or black in colour. The scarf is tied round the waist and is usually of two colours. Both are decorated with different ornamental designs representing pagan beliefs to protect the wearer from evil, but there are also floral elements, leaves, and flowers. The materials (silk and cotton) are bought in the city while work tools are made by local craftsmen.

There are only few women remaining in the region who are skilled in this work. It is an attractive product that should be promoted as a souvenir – a unique brand of the villages of this region. There is an urgent need for a plan to organise production.
• Specific attention to the inclusion of marginalized communities.
• Intercultural sensitivity towards existing groups based on age, geographic location, ability, gender, race, ethnicity.
• Comprehensive analysis of fundraising options and market trends.
• Effective Public Information campaign.
• Well-planned monitoring and evaluation mechanism, with the follow-up phase in mind.
• Timely and accurate documentation.
• Appropriate professional development opportunities.

5.4 Management measures require:
• Remaining loyal to the set parameters agreed by stakeholders.
• Ensuring systematic quality control of goods and services.
• Maintaining a balance between tasks and process.
• Treating monitoring and evaluation as a learning process.
• Careful balancing of financial and human resources, and programme activities.
• Undertaking of regular assessment and data analysis to be able to adapt to changes.
• Awareness of the potential linkages and possibilities of cooperation to save resources and build partnerships.
• Provision of regular updates to stakeholders on the project progress to reinforce engagement.
• Promotion of the completed works to demonstrate progress and attract internal and external donors, partners and investors.

5.5 Cultural Heritage and Tourism involves:
• Recognising that Heritage Tourism can be a major contributor to local economic development.
• Recognising that Heritage projects can increase heritage tourism when they are carried out in as part of an integrated heritage tourism package. It would be beneficial to priorities projects which are allied to good tourism infrastructure and commercial developments such as restaurants and accommodation provision.
• Ensuring to involve and integrate local populations with their heritage sites and the associated heritage tourism development.
• In developing and presenting heritage tourism be sensitive at all times to the cultural diversity of local populations and tourists.
• Striving to present a balanced narrative of the heritage and history of the region, ensuring that presentations and information provided is based at all times on sound professional knowledge and research.
• Ensuring that a reasonable proportion of the income derived from heritage tourism is channelled back into heritage conservation.
• Recognising the inherent risk that exploiting one dimension of heritage as a tourism attraction in an area may threaten the conservation or even very existence of other heritage resources in the area.
• Recognising that heritage tourists will expect internationally recognised standards with regard to the local physical and hospitality infrastructure.
• Prior to presenting heritage sites as tourism attractions ensure that the requisite heritage protection measures are in place.
• Prior to presenting heritage sites as tourism attractions ensure that the associated health and safety issues have been addressed.
• Recognising that uncoordinated heritage tourism can give rise to negative impacts on local populations such as loss of privacy, increased traffic congestion, damage to property and the local public environment and disruption of local lifestyles.
Ethnological museum, Gjakovë/Dakovica
The Feasibility Study recommendations focused on the delivery of the project objectives in relation to cultural diversity, the communal cultural and natural heritage resources, and the potential for heritage tourism in the region – all integrated with general tourism development whilst taking practical account of available resources, authorities and legislative/other constraints.

The Action Plan that is central to the Heritage Plan focuses on addressing the heritage weaknesses in a manner that recognises the relationship between heritage and the local economy, including tourism, and represents a continuation and diversification of actions already completed/facilitated by regional and municipal working groups in the region.

These actions have included:

- The establishment and training of the regional and municipal working groups.
- The overall data collection exercise.
- Heritage data assessment and validation projects in each municipality.
- Pilot projects focusing on cultural events/traditions in each municipality.
- Heritage tourism demonstration pilot projects.

Based on the strategic considerations already outlined, the following are Objectives and associated Actions planned for the next three years:

**Objective 1**
To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Potential partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Organise diverse heritage promotion activities with active community involvement, highlighting the local practices, sites and cultural products in the region</td>
<td>PCDK, Media, Practitioners, CSOs, CCH, Business community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Encourage educational awareness-raising activities at schools through competitions, events and workshops</td>
<td>Local schools, municipal Directorates of Education, Practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Develop and adopt a joint regional awareness-raising strategy with all municipalities involved</td>
<td>CSOs, PCDK Municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Promote the regional Heritage Plan and its implementation through a number of awareness activities with the regional coordination office for heritage management</td>
<td>Municipalities, PCDK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Improve awareness of the integrated approach to heritage among authorities and the general public</td>
<td>PCDK</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Establish a website promoting the region and its ongoing activities</td>
<td>Regional office</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Provide the regional office with municipal promotional materials</td>
<td>Municipalities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Objective 2
To take necessary measures for the protection of heritage in Kosovo West

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Potential partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Ensure ongoing data assessment of heritage assets</td>
<td>CSOs, CCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Initiate the compilation of an inventory on intangible cultural heritage elements in cooperation with the scientific institutions and/or experts</td>
<td>CSOs, Owners, Practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Conduct a pilot project for conservation of the archaeological and other heritage artefacts following consultations with central institutions</td>
<td>Institute of Archaeology, Municipalities, CCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Initiate a rural assessment with particular attention to biodiversity and natural heritage assets, including identification of species of highest conservation concern in the region</td>
<td>MESP, Municipalities, CSOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Carry out an inventory of landscape areas from a heritage perspective</td>
<td>MESP, Municipalities, CSOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Create a database for the museums and their collections (movable cultural heritage)</td>
<td>Museum of Kosovo, Ethnological Institute, Municipalities, CSOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Compile a “Buildings at Risk Record” so that immediate action can be taken in terms of safeguarding existing structures</td>
<td>CCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Create a map of protected built cultural heritage assets, intangible cultural heritage elements, moveable heritage items and natural heritage sites based on comprehensive study and research</td>
<td>CCH, CSOs, Municipalities</td>
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Objective 3
To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo West

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Potential partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Encourage coordination and cooperation between all heritage agencies, interested bodies and individuals in the region</td>
<td>CCH, PCDK, Municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Organise study visits to regions with similar challenges and projects</td>
<td>PCDK, other projects operating in the region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Utilise the management tools introduced in the Ljubljana Process of CoE /EU</td>
<td>CCH, Municipalities, Ministry of Trade and Industry (tourism department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Organise regular regional heritage forums to keep all stakeholders updated</td>
<td>Regional office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Issue an annual publication “Review of the State of Heritage and Tourism in Kosovo West”, sharing research and assessment results</td>
<td>Regional office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Provide regular and appropriate access to the selected heritage sites with a tourism perspective, including signage and information</td>
<td>CCH, Municipalities</td>
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</table>
Objective 4
To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo West

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<th>No</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Potential partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Develop further best practice guidelines and templates</td>
<td>CCH, PCDK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Coordinate annual reviews of the implementation of the Heritage Plan and the preparation of the next Heritage Plan in 2014 for a further 5 year period</td>
<td>Regional office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Ensure improved quality services for heritage tourism through professional development</td>
<td>IMWG, PCDK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Develop an integrated approach to rehabilitation, tourism and education programs with multiple partners</td>
<td>PCDK, Municipalities, CSOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Plan tailored programmes in light of current and potential tourist flow</td>
<td>Municipalities, CSOs, business community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Prepare management plans for rehabilitation of selected immovable cultural heritage, intangible heritage and natural heritage assets through active intercultural dialogue among all stakeholders (central and local), including marginalised communities</td>
<td>Projects operating in the region, CCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Produce best-practice guidelines on maintenance of built heritage and archaeological sites</td>
<td>CCH</td>
</tr>
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Objective 5
Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo West

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Potential partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Initiate a training programme for local part-time heritage guides in each municipality</td>
<td>IMWG, PCDK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Participate in heritage tourism demonstration pilot projects including cultural heritage routes</td>
<td>PCDK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Conduct cost/benefit analysis on the overall project and individual projects to aid project prioritisation and applications for funding</td>
<td>CCH, Municipalities, Research companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Prepare Kosovo West region as heritage tourism destination</td>
<td>CSOs, municipalities, regional office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Develop opportunities to integrate cultural heritage and tourism sectors</td>
<td>CSOs, municipality, regional office,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Develop basic tourism services based on SMEs (family-based businesses)</td>
<td>Loan companies, banks, PCDK, municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Support intangible cultural heritage practices and assets through responsible application of creative industries</td>
<td>CSOs, municipalities, regional office, business community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Action Plan will be monitored by the regional coordination office for cultural diversity and heritage management, which includes regional and municipal working groups and will be supported by the PCDK project.
The implementation of the Regional Heritage Plan is an essential part of the process where active and increased involvement of local stakeholders will play a crucial role for its effectiveness. Since this plan is the first of its kind in Kosovo, close linkage with the PCDK project will be maintained for the next three years. In addition, the professional relationship established with the Irish Heritage Council will be an added value to provide technical support. Further, the linkages established with the ‘Regional Natural Park of Vosges North’ in France will assist professional exchanges in the implementation phase in the upcoming period. The implementation of the Heritage Plan will be facilitated through a sound monitoring mechanism.

The Office for Promotion of Heritage Management – West (PHM) closely linked to the PCDK project, is envisaged as a regional think-tank where it conducts extensive research and collects data about the region, undertaking comparative analysis and feeding into strategies and plans developed locally. This entity further establishes and maintains linkages with local and international donors, other regions in Kosovo and central authorities, to provide active input into Kosovo-wide programming.

Based on the information gathered, the office assists public awareness campaigns and promotional activities on diversity and heritage of the region, with a focus on heritage tourism. Through ongoing assessment, the office plays a catalyst role for the maintenance and management of cultural and natural heritage in coordination with all stakeholders. The office provides sound and factual data on developing strategies and heritage management plans.
Through developed capacity at the local level, these plans would be prepared by local stakeholders within local communities, in accordance with the laws and regulations set by the central authorities. This office ensures linkages, and constant dialogue between similar entities and communities will be encouraged. As heritage tourism is essential for local economic development, the objective of the office would be the promotion and advocacy of cultural and natural heritage in the process of development and heritage tourism, where tourism would pay particular attention to the protection, maintenance and management of heritage and diversity. While the PCDK project will be closely linked with this office, it is hoped that their essential role is understood and supported by all stakeholders, gradually becoming an effective part of local structures.

The functions of the regional coordination office include:

- Research
- Promotion
- Innovative Actions
- Professional Development
- Support to Strategy Making and Heritage Plan

KOZHNJER/ KOŽNJER MOUNTAIN (CHAMOIS RESERVE), DEÇAN/ĐEČANE MUNICIPALITY
Kozhnjer/ Kožnjer (1708 m) is known for its biodiversity as well as for its geological, geomorphologic, speleological and hydrological characteristics. The importance of this zone relates to the presence of wild goat (Rupicapra rupicapra) in the pastures and forest areas, a rare type of mammal which is only found deep in mountainous and rocky areas. It is also the habitat of mouse-eating eagles (Buteo buteo), wood grouse (Tetrao urogallus) and rock partridge (Alectoris graeca). In 1955 the area of Kozhnjer (150ha) was put under strict protection. There is need for a protection policy for this rare biodiversity.
Long term strategy
While the first HERITAGE PLAN was developed in the region of Kosovo West, in the next three years more regional heritage plans will be developed at the behest of the regional working groups, in partnership with their municipal authorities. Number of heritage plans will be based on the new operational structure of MCYS and following the methodology developed during the PCDK project. Interested regions will be involved in the process, progressively developing their heritage plans simultaneously, while steadily contributing to a Kosovo-wide heritage plan.
Appendixes
Appendix 1 – Heritage Sites & Traditions Evaluated during 2011

The following heritage sites & traditions listed separately for each municipality were evaluated during 2011 as part of the integrated field work phase of the heritage plan for the region. The heritage listed is only a sample of the rich and diverse heritage of the region. The on-going work under the heritage plan will add to these lists on a progressive incremental planned basis. This early and progressive community engagement with sites and traditions is a distinctive feature of the heritage plan process as implemented in Kosovo.

Municipality of Pejë/Peć

Tangible heritage of Pejë/Peć municipality.
- Bajrakli Mosque
- Haxhi bey’s Hamam
- Haxhi Zeka’s Mill
- Tahir bey’s Guest house
- Goskaj’s Tower
- Qamil Limani’s Tower
- Zenel bey’s Tower
- Kurshumli Mosque
- Old Trade Market
- Pejë/Peć Patriarchate

Intangible heritage of Pejë/Peć municipality.
- Woolly hat maker

Natural heritage data for municipality of Pejë/Peć
- Drini i Bardhë/Beli Drim (White Drini) spring
- Grand Gorge Cave
- Rugova Gorge

Municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica

Tangible Heritage Sites of Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality
- Ethnographic Museum
- Hadumi Mosque
- Clock Tower
- Koshi’s Tower
- Tekke of Sheik Emin
- Tanner’s Bridge
- Tatiqi’s Bridge
- Tailor’s Bridge
- Haraqija Inn
Intangible Heritage of Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality

Cradle maker artisan

Natural heritage data for municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica

Drini i Bardhë/Beli Drim (White Drini) Canyon
Radoniqi/Radonići Lake
Shkugiţa/Škugeza Park

Municipality of Deçan/Dečane

Tangible heritage data of municipality of Deçan/Dečane

Demukaj’s Tower
Kukleci’s Tower
Mazrekaj’s Tower
Osdautaj’s Tower
Mushkolaj’s Tower
Deçan/Visoki Dečani Monastery
Deçan/Dečani Mosque
Shabanaj’s Mill
Tahir Sadria’s Mill

Intangible heritage data of municipality of Deçan/Dečane

Traditional weaving

Natural heritage data for municipality of Deçan/Dečane

Prejlep/Prilep Mountains
Kozhnjer/Kožnjer Mountain
Deçan/Dečane Pine

Municipality of Istog/Istok

Tangible heritage data of municipality of Istog/Istok

Stone Bridge in Zallq/Žaç
St. John’s Church
Qerim Rugova’s Tower
Qëlë Bicaj’s Mill

Intangible heritage data of municipality of Istog/Istok

Lama’s Dinner

Natural heritage for municipality of Istog/Istok

Thermal Water Spring
Natural Water Spring
Municipality of Klinë/Klina

**Tangible heritage data for the municipality of Klinë/Klina**

Mark Jakaj’s Tower  
Stone House - Museum

**Intangible heritage data for the municipality of Klinë/Klina**

Traditional ‘Reka’ women’s clothing

**Natural heritage data for municipality of Klina**

Azem Bejla’s Cave  
Dushi’s Cave  
Mirusha Waterfalls

Municipality of Junik

**Tangible heritage for the municipality of Junik**

Ramë Zymberi’s Tower  
Jah Imeri’s Tower  
Çoku’s Mosque

**Intangible heritage for the municipality of Junik**

Stick games  
Horse races

**Natural heritage data for municipality of Junik**

Erenik River  
Moronica Landscape  
Gjeravica/Đeravica Lakes and Peak
Appendix 2 – Selected References & Sources


Irish Heritage Council, (July 2003). “A Methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers on the Preparation of County/City Heritage Plans”. Note: the methodology and examples of Irish heritage plans may be downloaded from the Heritage Council website - http://heritagecouncil.ie


Appendix 3 – Documents included in the accompanying disc

1. Survey on Possibilities of Cultural Tourism Development
2. Feasibility Study Report on Cultural Tourism Development
3. Booklet on Pilot Actions, Pejë/Peć
4. Booklet on Pilot Actions, Gjakovë/Dakovica
5. Booklet on Pilot Actions, Deçan/Dečane
6. Booklet on Pilot Actions, Junik
7. Booklet on Pilot Actions, Istog/Istok
8. Booklet on Pilot Actions, Klina/Klina
Natural landscape, Rugova mountains

PROMOTION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY & TOURISM

PROMOVIMI I DIVERSITETIT KULTUROR DHE TURIZMIT

PROMOCIJA KULTURNE RAZNOLIKOSTI I TURIZMA

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