

Strengthening Cultural Bridges: The Site Management Plan for Oshki Monastery as a Transboundary Nominee

Kültürel Köprülerin Güçlendirilmesi: Sınır Aşan Aday Olarak Öşki Manastırı İçin Alan Yönetim Planı

Beyza Nur ÇALIŞKAN KELEŞ^{1*} , Gülşen DİŞLİ² 

Received: 21.11.2024 - Accepted: 04.04.2025

Abstract

As the number of assets on the World Heritage List (WHL) increases, countries are moving towards submitting stronger nominations. Transboundary cultural assets are structures that have extensions in more than one country, and as of 2024 there are only 49 examples worldwide. Although Türkiye has a high potential in this field, it has not yet been able to enter the list with such an asset. In this direction, the religious buildings of the Kingdom of Tao-Klarjeti, which have a common value of Turkish and Georgian culture and Christian faith, are proposed to WHL in the category of transboundary property. With this study, it is aimed to strengthen the intercultural connection and to investigate the historical, cultural and religious structure of the region and to guide the preparation of an area management plan by examining the current situation. Context analysis and case study analysis were used as the two main methodological approaches; field studies were conducted based on basic guidelines in the Oşki Monastery sample and action plans were prepared. It has been concluded that Tao-Klarjeti monasteries have the potential to enter the WHL with the cross-border candidacy proposal, thus ensuring the sustainable protection and recognition of cultural assets in a holistic manner.

Keywords: UNESCO world heritage, Site management plan, Transboundary serial heritage, Tao Klarjeti, Oshki.

Özet

Dünya Miras Listesi'ndeki (WHL) varlıkların sayısı artarken ülkeler daha güçlü adaylıklar sunmaya yönelmektedir. Sınır aşan kültür varlıkları, birden fazla ülkede uzantısı bulunan yapılar olup 2024 itibarıyla dünya genelinde sadece 49 örneği vardır. Türkiye, bu alanda yüksek potansiyele sahip olmasına rağmen henüz böyle bir varlıkla listeye girememiştir. Bu doğrultuda Türk ve Gürcü kültürü ile Hristiyan inancının ortak değeri olan, Tao-Klarjeti Krallığı'nın dini yapıları, WHL'ye sınır aşan mülkiyet kategorisinde önerilmektedir. Tao-Klarjeti'nin manastırları, insanlık tarihinde önemli bir aşamaya damgasını vuran ve inançla doğrudan bağlantılı yapı türleri oldukları için olağanüstü evrensel değerlere sahiptir. Bu çalışma ile kültürlerarası bağın güçlendirilmesi ve bölgenin tarihi, kültürel ve dini yapısının araştırılması ve mevcut durumun incelenerek alan yönetim planının hazırlanmasına rehberlik edilmesi amaçlanmaktadır. İki ana metodolojik yaklaşım olarak bağlam analizi ve vaka çalışması analizi kullanılmış, Öşki Manastırı örnekleminde temel yönergelere dayanarak saha çalışmaları yapılmış ve eylem planları hazırlanmıştır. Öşki Manastırı, mimari özgünlüğünü büyük ölçüde korumuş ve bölgenin kültürel mirasını temsil eden önemli bir örnek olarak değerlendirilmiştir. Tao-Klarjeti manastırlarının sınır aşırı adaylık önerisi ile WHL'ye girme potansiyeline sahip olduğu, bu sayede kültür varlıklarının bütüncül bir şekilde sürdürülebilir korunması ve tanınmasının sağlanacağı sonucuna varılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: UNESCO dünya mirası, Alan yönetim planı, Sınır aşan seri miras, Tao Klarjeti, Öşki.

Citation: Çalışkan Keleş, B. N., & Dişli, G. (2025). Strengthening cultural bridges: The site management plan for Oshki Monastery as a transboundary nominee. *Modular Journal*, 8(1), 100–122.

¹ Atatürk University, Architecture and Design Faculty, Architecture Department, Erzurum, Türkiye. c.beyza@atauni.edu.tr

² Necmettin Erbakan University, Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture, Architecture Department, Konya, Türkiye. gdisli@erbakan.edu.tr

* Corresponding Author

Extended Abstract

Introduction: Transboundary cultural and natural heritage sites which have outstanding universal value are a legacy not only for the countries in which they are located, but for all nations of the world. It is therefore necessary to create opportunities to give them the importance they deserve and to protect them. However, in the absence of a site management plan for their conservation, the future of these architectural masterpieces is uncertain. An important example in this regard is the relationship between Türkiye and Georgia. Magnificent Georgian monasteries from the medieval principality of Tao-Klarjeti are located in northeastern Türkiye and southern Georgia. However, there is no site management plan for the historical monasteries in the Tao-Klarjeti region which would be necessary for their sustainable preservation. This situation has prompted the researchers to carry out a preliminary study to serve as a basis for the development of a site management plan for these transboundary properties.

Purpose: The monasteries of the Tao-Klarjeti region are the common value of Turkish and Georgian culture and Christian faith with their extraordinary universal values. Despite their decay today, these structures bear witness to the rule of the Middle Ages. The Tao-Klarjeti region fulfills criterion iv (in the type of structures that indicate an important stage or stages of human history) and criterion vi (related to the Christian faith) of the World Heritage Convention. In this context, the monasteries of the Tao-Klarjeti region are proposed for the transboundary category of the UNESCO WHL. Firstly, the aim of this research is to protect these monasteries so that they can be passed on to future generations. Secondly, to support the development of the site management plan for these monasteries, which is a prerequisite for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Thirdly, to strengthen relations by building a cultural bridge between Türkiye and Georgia. In addition, research opportunities on this topic are to be expanded in order to contribute to tourism in the region and to the future sustainable development of the region.

Method: The Oshki Monastery, one of these buildings reflecting the characteristics of this period, has largely preserved its architectural authenticity and integrity. Therefore, it serves as a good example for observing the architectural details of Georgian architecture in the Tao-Klarjeti region. This study used context analysis and case study analysis using the example of Oshki Monastery as two main methodological approaches, conducted field studies and developed action plans based on basic guidelines. In the case study, the potential characteristics of Oshki Monastery and its neighbourhood, district, and province were identified through observations. Therefore, the field studies were conducted twice in April and May 2024 for the Oshki Monastery and the immediate surroundings. A detailed condition assessment was prepared for the case study site, along with action plans for conservation, visitor management, transportation, education and awareness raising, risk, and financial management. The action plans were developed not only for the monastery itself but also for the whole context of the immediate surrounding and the Tao Klarjeti region in a broader context. The data were collected and processed in the excel program. The results were used to first comprehensively identify the values of the site and then define the best possible policies, strategies, and action plans for the case study area. In this way, the possible and well-functioning action plans were developed for the site management plan of the region and Oshki Monastery.

Findings: The study concluded that the Georgian monasteries in the Tao-Klarjeti region, including the Oshki Monastery, have the potential to be inscribed on the World Heritage List with the transboundary candidacy proposal, which will ensure the sustainable protection and recognition of these cultural properties in a holistic manner. The condition assessment of the case study area, Oshki Monastery, showed deficiencies mainly in the areas of protection and promotion, and further proposals for action were developed for these areas. Despite the fact that the building is registered, due to the lack of a land use plan for protection purposes, many unqualified buildings have been built around it. This situation has had a negative impact on the silhouette of the building from an aesthetic point of view. The static deformations of the structure, the loss of materials on the facades, and the effects of vandalism show the inadequacy of the protection. The opening of tourist information centers for the area, the increase in the number of scientific events such as workshops, congresses, and panel discussions, and the organization of social events such as festivals, celebrations, and fairs should be developed in terms of presentation, promotion and tourism.

Conclusion: The study is important as it promotes the concept of common cultural heritage, cultural dialogue and cooperation between Türkiye and Georgia and contributes to the sustainable development of the Tao Klarjeti region. It is expected that the study will lead to the preparation of action plans and management proposals for other monasteries in the region. The Tao-Klarjeti region, which includes other monasteries of a similar nature, has been identified as a macro-level interaction area. It is necessary to create a management plan for all Georgian monasteries in this region. In this way, the area can be included in the World Heritage List and its protection will be ensured in a holistic way. Uzundere district, with which the cultural property is administratively connected, was identified as a micro-level interaction area. This region, which has a high potential for ecotourism, will also support the activities of the monastery and faith tourism. Because, ecotourism is supported by architecture, as it merges with the environment and represents local life with a user experience. It can help raise awareness of the available resources, craftsmanship and culture of the region and support the economy and identity of the place. Architectural heritage in ecotourism areas will also increase the number of visitors who want to experience nature and cultural tourism activities together.

Keywords: UNESCO world heritage, Site management plan, Transboundary serial heritage, Tao Klarjeti, Oshki.

INTRODUCTION

In cases where natural or cultural property belonging to one state is located within the political borders of another state, disagreements have arisen over the protection of such property. In this context, a series of meetings have been held to create an environment for discussion on this issue and to define the details and discuss the concepts of transboundary and transnational cooperation. In the UNESCO Operational Guidelines, Articles 134-136, (2021: 44), a 'transboundary property' is defined as a property that is "located on the territory of all States Parties concerned that are linked to each other." A 'serial transboundary property' (2021: 45) is defined in Articles 137-138 as a property that is "situated on the territory of different States Parties which need not be contiguous, and which is nominated with the consent of all States Parties concerned". In addition, transboundary nomination was developed at the 29th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and included as a separate category on the UNESCO World Heritage List (WHL) (UNESCO, 2005).

The emergence of transboundary properties has ensured the integrity of the protection of World Heritage sites (Song et al., 2009). Transboundary properties can contribute to 'cultural diversity', 'dispute resolution', and 'sustainable development'. They can be an important source of international cooperation for future generations and benefit to human peace (Yang et al., 2022). Current research on transboundary sites has focused on 'heritage tourism' and 'conservation management issues' (Wang, 2007; 2011; Svells, 2015; Jimber Del Rio et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020; Hosseini et al., 2021). Cultural tourism creates economic value, disseminates culture and contributes to the sustainable use of cultural heritage sites (Zhang et al., 2022). However, some negative tourism activities threaten the sustainability of cultural heritage. Therefore, cultural heritage sites need comprehensive management. The success of management depends on the nature of the case studies. The issue of management through case studies is a new area in cultural heritage research (Chen et al., 2017; Xiao and Zheng, 2018). In this context, this study on the case of Oshki Monastery was conducted to propose the Georgian monasteries as a transboundary candidacy for the World Heritage List, thus contributing to a current and new field in the literature.

The Problem of the Research

Transboundary cultural and natural heritage sites which have outstanding universal value are a legacy not only for the countries in which they are located, but for all nations of the world. It is therefore necessary to create opportunities to give them the importance they deserve and to protect them. However, in the absence of a site management plan for their conservation, the future of these architectural masterpieces is uncertain.

An important example in this regard is the relationship between Türkiye and Georgia. Magnificent Georgian monasteries from the medieval principality of Tao-Klarjeti are in northeastern Türkiye and southern Georgia. However, there is no site management plan for the historical monasteries in the Tao-Klarjeti region which would be necessary for their sustainable preservation. This situation has prompted the researchers to carry out a preliminary study to serve as a basis for the development of a site management plan for these transboundary properties.

The Purpose of the Research

The historical monasteries in the Tao-Klarjeti region are a concrete example of the connection between Georgian and Turkish cultural sites. This region belonged to the Bagrat Dynasty of Georgia between the 8th and 14th centuries until the Ottoman conquest (Aytekin & Korkut, 2020: pp. 608-615). Despite their decay today, these structures bear witness to the rule of the Middle Ages. The Tao-Klarjeti region fulfills criterion

iv (in the type of structures that indicate an important stage or stages of human history) and criterion vi (related to the Christian faith) of the World Heritage Convention. The monasteries have universal characteristics as examples of buildings that highlight the form of Christian faith and architecture. The monasteries, which feature mixed models of a Greek cross, triconchos and basilica plans, are characterized by their richness of plans. Over time, these plans were also used for the churches built in Georgia. In this context, the monasteries of the Tao-Klarjeti region are proposed for the transboundary category of the UNESCO WHL. Firstly, the aim of this research is to protect these monasteries so that they can be passed on to future generations. Secondly, to support the development of the site management plan for these monasteries, which is a prerequisite for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Thirdly, to strengthen relations by building a cultural bridge between Türkiye and Georgia. In addition, research opportunities on this topic are to be expanded in order to contribute to tourism in the region and to the future sustainable development of the region.

The Hypotheses of the Research

- There is also a gap in the literature that highlights the potential for the transboundary nomination of properties to the UNESCO World Heritage List, promoting cross-cultural interaction between the two countries. This study contributes to this gap in the literature.
- According to UNESCO, there are a total of 1223 properties on the WHL List and 49 properties on the Transboundary Properties List (UNESCO, 2024a). While the number of Turkish properties on the WHL is 21, there are still no works on the Transboundary List. Therefore, the potential of this study for the nomination of transboundary properties is quite high. This study will be a pioneer for transboundary religious structures in Türkiye that have not yet been discovered.
- The WHL contains transboundary examples such as the architectural work of Le Corbusier, the great spa towns of Europe, Belfriede in Belgium and France. The only example of transboundary religious heritage is the settlement of the Moravian Church. The settlement is located in the United States of America, Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and Northern Ireland. Criterion (iii) and criterion (iv) apply to the site. "The town plans are still legible and largely intact. Visual and functional relationships within the settlements and in some cases with the surrounding landscapes are still largely present and legible. None of the settlements are at risk of irreversible change" (UNESCO, 2024b). These characteristics are similar to those of the monasteries in the Tao-Klarjeti region. Therefore, the monasteries have a high chance of being included in the WHL.

The Scope of the Research

The Tao-Klarjeti region located in the northeast of Türkiye and the south of Georgia was selected. In the region, Georgian kings built large monasteries to teach religion, philosophy, and art (Djobadze, 1992). Özkan (1996, pp. 97-119; 2006, pp. 16-181; 2010), Zakharova and Mal'tseva (2017, pp. 679-688), Korkut (2017, pp. 835-851; 2019a, pp. 44-56; 2019b, pp. 769-7), Canöz (2019), Aytekin and Korkut (2020), Güven (2020, pp. 96-110) and Menna (2021, pp. 95-102) emphasized the importance of the monasteries of the Tao-Klarjeti region. In these monasteries, the clergy was trained, the Bible, religious stories, songs and texts were copied and reproduced as manuscripts (Bayram, 2005, p. 5). In particular, the Oshki Monastery from the 11th and 12th centuries was one of the most important religious buildings in the region and reflects the characteristics of the era and the Tao-Klarjeti, as it also played a role as 'an important episcopal center' in the region. Religious manuscripts were reproduced and copied in the monastery and the works written here contributed to the spread of the Christian religion. Therefore, it was selected as an example of case study to apply the proposal for a site management plan for transboundary property nominations. Other monasteries are excluded.

The most important criteria for the selection of Oshki Monastery as a representative example are explained below:

- The Tao-Klarjeti region represents an important period in human history and it fulfills the criterion IV of the World Heritage Convention (a type of building that represents an important stage or layer in human history). Because of this characteristic, the monasteries in this region have Outstanding Universal Value and have been proposed for candidacy as 'transboundary serial heritage'. Among them, the physical structure of Oshki Monastery is in good condition, and the process of deterioration is under control. Although it has been severely damaged by natural disasters and man-made destruction and has undergone many restorations throughout history, it has still largely preserved its architectural authenticity and integrity. Therefore, serves as a good example for observing all the architectural details of Georgian architecture in the Tao-Klarjeti region.
- Considering its location, it is easily accessible.
- The possibilities for collecting data on the historical and architectural features of the monastery are greater than for other monasteries in the region.
- It has largely preserved its decorations and ornaments, thus preserving character defining outstanding architectural features and aesthetic, artistic values.

THE METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

In order to highlight the importance of the region and monasteries of Tao Klarjeti and to investigate the current situation of the context for their sustainable preservation, this study uses context analysis and case study analysis as two main methodological approaches. For a detailed context and case study analysis, a literature review was first conducted on the historical, cultural, and religious significance of the case study building and region. International guidelines and national regulations on cultural heritage management were then examined for data collection on international and national management plans. 'The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention' by UNESCO (2021), the Guidance Document of the World Heritage Convention, and the 'Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites' by Feilden and Jokilehto (1998) were the main sources for international guidelines on cultural heritage management.

In the case study, the potential characteristics of Oshki Monastery and its neighbourhood, district, and province were identified through observations. Therefore, the field studies were conducted twice in April and May 2024 for the Oshki Monastery and the immediate surroundings. A detailed condition assessment was prepared for the case study site, along with action plans for conservation, visitor management, transportation, education and awareness raising, risk, and financial management. The action plans were developed not only for the monastery itself but also for the whole context of the immediate surrounding and the Tao Klarjeti region in a broader context. Using all these data, a preliminary study for a management plan for the region and the case study building was prepared. The methodology of this study was based on condition surveys, and environmental analysis, and field studies, which included visual observations and interviews. The data were collected and processed in the excel program. The results were used to first comprehensively identify the values of the site and then define the best possible policies, strategies, and action plans for the case study area. In this way, the possible and well-functioning action plans were developed for the site management plan of the region and Oshki Monastery.

"The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO recognizes that a cultural or natural property has Outstanding Universal Value if it meets at least one of the ten criteria" (UNESCO, 2021, pp. 29-30). The property is also expected to meet the conditions of originality and integrity to be considered of outstanding universal value. "For a property to meet the condition of authenticity, form and design, materials and substance, use and

function, traditions, techniques and management systems, location and setting, language and other forms of intangible heritage, spirit and emotion, and other internal and external factors must be considered. To ensure the state of integrity, it is expected to contain all the necessary elements to show its outstanding universal value, to be large enough to represent its cultural characteristics, and to be adequately protected from deterioration” (UNESCO, 2021: 30-31; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>). Therefore, the study assessed the status of the originality, integrity, and criteria selection of the sample area through detailed literature and case studies.

When assessing the authenticity and integrity status of Oshki Monastery for which the site management plan is being reviewed, the following points are determined.

Authenticity Statement: The monastery is located on the site where it was first built. It is built on a rectangular area of 49.76m x 29.80m. The shape, consisting of the Greek cross, the triconchos and the octagonal plan of the basilica, has been preserved and no additions have been made. The load-bearing elements (columns and arches), the façade walls, the interior walls and the upper cover are protected as they were originally built. The local stone of the region was used as building material and root colors were used for the decoration. The decorative elements, the façades enlivened with arches and porticoes, the fluted triangular niches painted with root colors, the column capitals and the curbstones decorated with floral motifs, animal figures and statues of apostles are the elements that have been present since the first construction of the building. The spirit of the church can still be felt in the preserved parts that are unique to the architecture of the church, the interior design, and the decorative elements. The building continues to fulfill its religious function by being converted and currently is used as a mosque. This change of function has not particularly affected the authenticity of the building. Only the floor coverings in the eastern part of the monastery were replaced with carpets and minor additions such as the mihrab and the pulpit were necessary, and all the decorations have been preserved.

The Integrity Statement: The Tao-Klarjeti region represents an important period from the perspective of human history. The physical structure of Oshki Monastery, which is one of the religious buildings of the region and reflects the characteristics of the era, is in good condition and the process of decay and deterioration is under control. The building is large enough to show its form and design, structure and decorative richness. As the necessary conservation measures were not taken in time, it was neglected and therefore exposed to the risk of deterioration.

Therefore, the Oshki Monastery is proposed under Criterion iv (of a building type indicating an important stage or stages in the history of mankind) and Criterion vi (directly related to the Christian faith) of the World Heritage Convention.

Criterion iv: Due to the repressive policies of the Roman Empire, it was necessary to establish close relations with it and to accept Christianity. This situation led to the acceptance of Christianity as an official religion and the widespread development of religious architecture. During the most productive periods of the kingdom, monasteries were built in many provinces that were similar in terms of layout, materials and decorative features. Important churches such as Bana, Opiza, Oshki, Haho, Ishani, Ekeki, Kalmaki, Taoskari, Tbeti, Dolishan, Parhal and Four Churches are part of the overall religious structure in the Tao-Klarjeti region.

Criterion vi: The monasteries built in the Tao-Klarjeti region have universal characteristics as examples of buildings that illuminate the form of Christian faith and architecture. The monasteries, in which mixed models of a Greek cross, trikonkhos and basilica plans can be seen, are characterized by their richness of plans. The Oshki Monastery in particular was one of the most important.

Context and Case Study Analysis

Tao-Klarjeti Region

The Tao-Klarjeti region is a buffer zone between Türkiye and Georgia (Table 1 - Map 1). The region, which includes the northeastern part of Erzurum, the north of Kars and the provinces of Artvin and Ardahan in Türkiye, is referred to as the Tao-Klarjeti region in Georgian history. 'Archaeological data indicate that the region has been inhabited since the Neolithic period'. The sources mention different areas for the boundaries of the region and many political associations that lived here, such as the Diauehi, Kolchis, Kartli, Iberia and Bagration associations (Djobadze, 1992; Özkan, 1996; Ceylan, 2017; Menna, 2021). Throughout history, this region has developed into a region of high geopolitical, economic and socio-cultural value. Close relations were established with the Roman Empire in the fourth century BC against the threats and attacks of the surrounding regions. Under the influence of Saint Nino and the Roman Empire, Christianity was recognised as the official state religion during the reign of King Mirian of Iberia. This situation led to the spread of Christianity throughout the region and the development of religious architecture (Canöz, 2019; Güven, 2020). In the Tao-Klarjeti region, in addition to the churches, the Georgian kings built large monasteries to teach religion, philosophy and art. Today, there are many monasteries in this region whose existence is known from the sources, but of which only ruins remain or are still standing. The churches 'Opiza, Mere, Parehi, Shatberdi, Cmerki, Berta, Daba, Handzta, Midznazori, Tskorastavi, Baretelta, Gunatlis Vani, Oşki, Haho, Ishani, Ekeki, Kalmaki, Taos-Kari, Tbeti, Parhal, Four Churches and Dolishan' are important examples of monuments in this region (Table 1).

Table 1. Religious architecture examples in Tao-Klarjeti region

 <p>Kingdom of Tao-Klarjeti - 10th c. AD</p> <p>Black Sea</p> <p>Caucasus Mountains</p> <p>TAO-KLARJETI</p> <p>Artanuji</p>		
<p>Map 1. Map showing of Tao-Klarjeti Region¹</p>	<p>Tbeti³</p> 	<p>Parhal/FourChurches³</p> 
 <p>GEORGIA</p> <p>Batumi</p> <p>Artvin</p> <p>Ardahan</p> <p>Kars</p> <p>TURKEY</p> <p>Çamlıyamaç Mah.</p> <p>Uzundere</p>	<p>Dolishan⁴</p> 	<p>Khandzti³</p> 
	<p>Haho/ Khakhuli⁵</p> 	<p>İşhani⁴</p> 

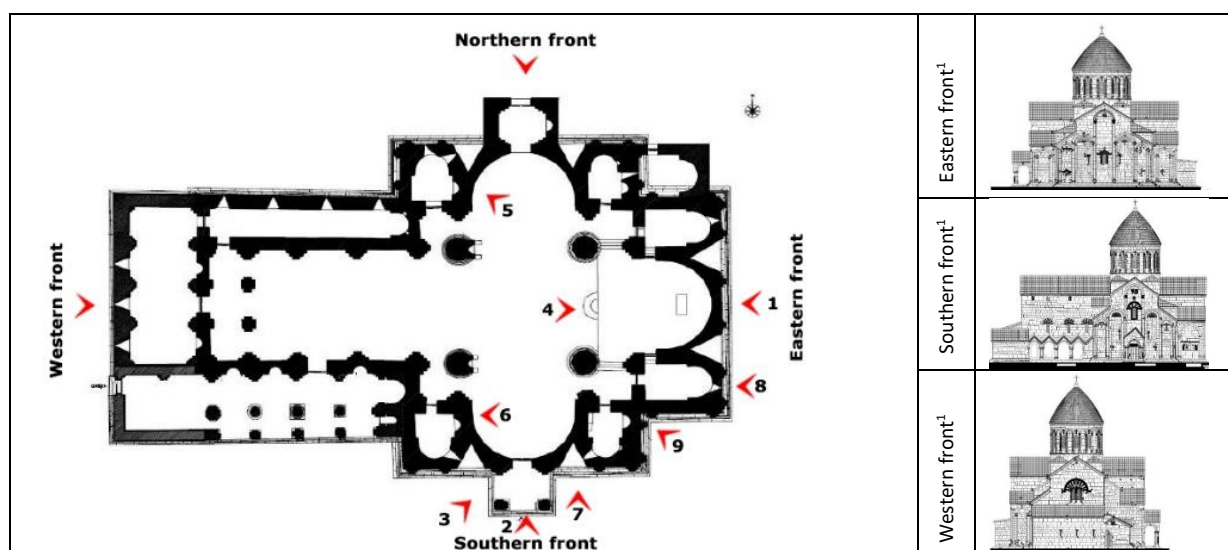
Map 2. Red area: The Tao-Klarjeti region; blue circles: place of monasteries ²	Oshki ⁵	Opiza ⁴
¹ https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tao-Klarjeti.svg	³ Saganelidze, 2019	
² Revised by authors via yandex map	⁴ https://www.kulturportali.gov.tr/	
	⁵ Photo archives of the authors, 2024	

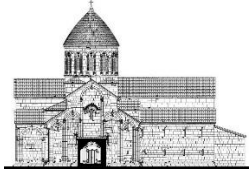









Oshki Monastery

Oshki Monastery has had various names throughout history and is also known as Öşki, Oşvank and Çamlıyamaç Monastery Church. It is located in Erzurum province, Uzundere district, Çamlıyamaç village. “There are two different opinions about the construction date of the Oshki Monastery, that it was built between the years 963-973 and 958-966” (Özkan, 1996, p. 97; Güven, 2020, pp. 105). For many years, it hosted activities to spread Christianity in the region and with the withdrawal of the Georgians from the region, it lost its current users. In the late 19th century, when the Muslim population replaced the Christian population, the southern arm of the cross was converted into a mosque, which was used until 1980. “When a new mosque was built for the village to the west in 1985, the church was abandoned” (Korkut, 2019b). It was severely damaged by natural disasters and man-made destruction. Today it is under protection with simple repairs.

The monastery, which was built on an area of around 50 m x 30 m, consists of a chapel, a library, a refectory, a priest's house and manuscript rooms. The naos section has a mixed model, consisting of the Greek cross, the western cross arm basilical and the other arms triconchal. The naos and the cross arms are single-storey, while the other parts are two-storey (Özkan, 1996:98). The facades of the church are extremely symmetrical and five stepped arches with semi-circular arches enliven the east, north and south facades. In the arches at the front, the arches at the center are higher than those at the sides, and the arches at the edges are reduced to create a stepped appearance. Triangular blind niches on the north, south and east facades are among the architectural elements that reinforce the vertical appearance of the facades. The upper parts of the niches were embroidered with oyster grooves and the inside of the grooves were painted with red and blue root colors, giving the façade a lively appearance. Geometric-vegetal ornaments, eagle and bird figures, saint and angel figures as well as lion and bull figures were used as decorative elements (Table 2). Among the figures of saints and angels, the scenes of ‘ratio stance’, i.e. the posture of a praying person or angel, can be seen in Christian art (Korkut, 2019a, pp. 48, 49, 50).

Table 2. Plan and facade drawings of Oshki Monastery and exterior and interior photos



			Northern front ¹	
Exterior ²				
	Image 1	Image 2	Image 3	
Interior ³				
	Image 4	Image 5	Image 6	
Examples of decorations ²				
	Image 7	Image 8	Image 9	
¹ Kavali, 2022		² Photo archives of the authors, 2024		³ https://www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/erzurum/gezilecekyer/osvank-kilisesi

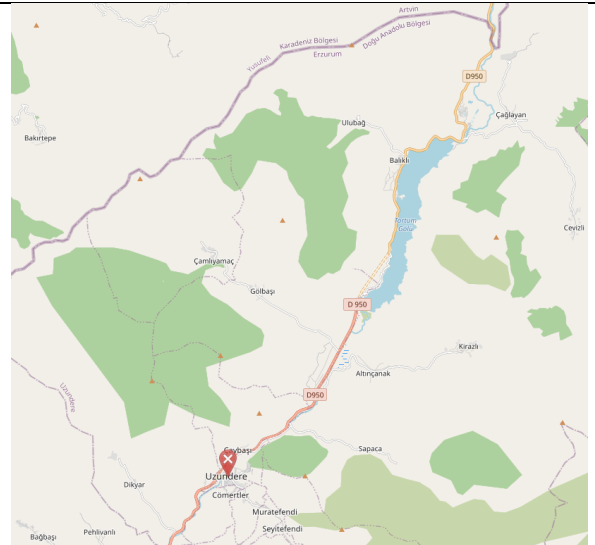
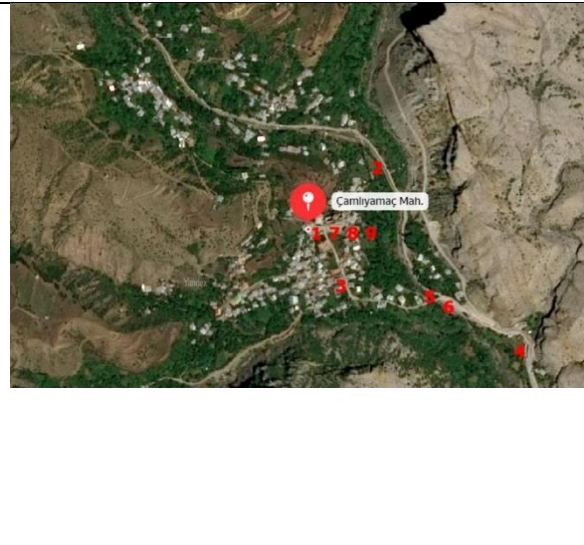



The Proposed Management Site

The monastery of Oshki is located in the village of Çamlıyamaç (Table 3 - Map 3). Çamlıyamaç is a district located at 40.613749 north latitude and 41.541988 east longitude, 8 km from the Erzurum-Artvin highway. The settlement is not in the immediate vicinity and borders Artvin (Yusufeli) to the north and the village of Gölbaşı, which belongs to the same district, to the south. It is surrounded by high mountains (Table 3, Image 1) and lies at an altitude of 1400 (Table 3 - Map 4). “The cold continental climate of Eastern Anatolia and the humid climate of the Black Sea are observed together” (Kaymaz et al., 2021). The district, whose administration is affiliated to Uzundere district, has a total population of 593 inhabitants, of which 259 are men and 334 are women. 60% of the population is between 15 and 64 years old. 65% of the population over 6 years old can read and write (TÜİK, 2023). The town is known for fruit and vegetable cultivation (Table 3, Image 2), cattle and small livestock breeding and beekeeping. Walnut, quince and honey production with high economic yields and freshwater fishing are practiced in the area. There are sales points for local products on the main road (Table 3, Image 3). There are 175 households in the neighborhood with two village schools, shelters, a health center and a mosque as well as private properties. After the individual homes along the road, the Oshki Monastery is located on the 8th floor. The property of the monastery belongs to the General Directorate of Foundations. Transportation options for visitors include personal vehicle transportation, daily public transportation between Erzurum and Tortum and mountain biking. Transportation by personal vehicle is easily possible via the main road (Table 3, Image 4),

but those using public transportation must get off at the stop at the entrance of the district and walk the rest of the way (Table 3, Image 5). A mountain bike route, created as part of a project funded by the European Union, also passes through this neighborhood (Table 3, Image 6). The Çamlıyamaç neighborhood lacks a regular pedestrian path and adequate lighting. It is currently not frequented by day trippers. The only tangible heritage value is the Oshki Monastery, which has not been used for many years, has been reinforced against the risk of collapse, clad with metal panels and partially protected (Table 3, Image 7). As a result, there are currently no guided tours or commercial activities taking place. Tourist groups visit it to learn about the area, but they can only see the exposed facades of the structure. Furthermore, there is no parking around the historic building and no recreational space for visitors (Table 3, Image 8). The promotional material is inadequate. There is only one advertising sign in front of the building, which was made as part of the Eastern Anatolia Tourism Development Project (DATUR), but it is damaged (Table 3, Image 9).

The protection plan without the silhouette of the monument, the houses and stores around the existing road affecting the access, route, and visual esthetics, in the neighborhood, local government, schools, mosques, health centers, and other residential units form the boundaries of the management area. The region between the administrative area and the management boundaries has been designated as a growth zone. In the current situation, there is no need for this region. As visitor volumes and business status increase, a need may arise over time. In such a case, this region will be included in the management area (Figure 1).

Table 3. The current state of the Çamlıyamaç Village

		
Map 3. The location of the village of Çamlıyamaç and its relationship with Uzundere (Source: OpenStreetMap)	Map 4. The location of the figures from the village of Çamlıyamaç (Source: Yandex Maps)	
		
Image 1. Environment	Image 2. Greenary	Image 3. Sales units

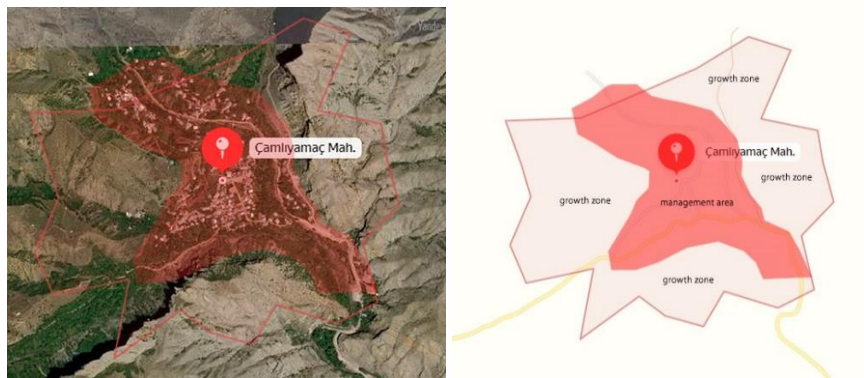


Figure 1. Management (red) Area (left) and Growth Zone (right)
(reworked by the authors via yandex map)

The Proposed Management Plan

The vision of the management plan is to lead the protection and preservation of the transboundary properties in Türkiye with its sustainable conservation policy through inclusion in the World Heritage List.

Within this framework, the main objectives for the management plan were set in six study areas: 'conservation/urban development, infrastructure/access, research, presentation/promotion/tourism, local awareness/participation, education/capacity development' (UNESCO, 2022).

The main objectives established for the management plan will be achieved through the actions listed in the tables below. For each of the main objectives, sub-objectives (e.g. CON1, RES2) and the actions defined for them were presented, and a prediction was made about the responsible institutions and financial resources. Action plans have been established for a period of five years, based on other approved national management plans and taking into account time management in the procedures and document flow of public institutions. The number of years in which this target was to be achieved within the five-year period for the measures to be taken was then specified. Finally, control methods were established, such as the preparation of reports to control the achievement of objectives, the comparison of the number of activities

carried out, the number of employees in cases where the human factor plays a role, and the revenue generated in the case of sale. In order for the management plan to be implemented efficiently, a site management department must first be established. Within this framework, the main institutions responsible for managing the area are the Governor of Erzurum, Erzurum Municipality, Uzundere District Administration, Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations, Ataturk University, Erzurum Technical University, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye, TUREB (Tourist Guidance Association), Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of National Education. When selecting the institutions in the action plans, criteria of sustainability was prioritized and the potential for implementing the defined actions was considered. The number of non-governmental organizations is limited due to the uncertainty of their permanence and the uncertainty of the sustainability of their actions. For this reason, mainly public institutions that are permanently active were included in the process. The non-governmental organization TUREB was included because it also maintains a regional chamber for tourist guides (Trabzon office), which also covers the case study area. Other associations and non-governmental organizations in the region related to the topic were also investigated and among them Çağlayan Science, Culture, and Art Association, Sapaca Culture and Tourism Association, Erzurum Tourism Envoys Association, Uzundere Women Labor Appraisal Association were also included in the related actions.

Conservation/urban development objectives; structural problems intervene, protection from the potential dangers of the structure, the history of interventions in the prevention of the fabric to be aligned with the historical monument of its surroundings, the field condition to combat the abandonment of the building, the revitalization of urban development monumental work, but also distributed throughout the territory is not limited to its surroundings (Table 4).

Table 4. Conservation/ Urban Development Action Plan

CONSERVATION/ URBAN DEVELOPMENT									
AIMS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	SUPPORTIVE/FINANCE SOURCE	DURATION(YEAR)				CONTROL DIRECTION	
CON.1: Intervention in structural problems	A.1. Preparation of 3R projects	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism					Reporting after restoration/repair	
	A.2. Conducting static assessments, and carrying out strengthening works if it is in danger								
	A.3. Reconstruction of the collapsed upper cover of the central nave in accordance with the original								
	A.4. Deteriorating, shedding, surging, etc. on the body walls of the structure. making repairs of missing coatings and plastering in the sections								
	A.5. Chemical cleaning in areas with discoloration of stone walls								
	A.6. Making the necessary drainage against the moisture problem								
CON.2: Protection of the structure against possible disasters	A.1. Identification of risk factors	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations					Preparation of the implementation report of the risk management plan	
	A.2. Making a risk management plan								

CON.3: Prevention of unconscious interventions in the historical fabric	A.1. Determining the most appropriate techniques and methods for the structure and context when making restoration decisions, preservation of all period additions, implementing the applications in accordance with the approved projects and monitoring them regularly in the following periods.	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Monitoring reports
	A.2. Raising awareness of local people about conservation (training, seminars, etc.)	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Training, seminars, etc. reporting of activities
	A.3. Preparation of the Zoning Plan for Protection Purposes	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations						Examination of the zoning plan
CON.4: To harmonize the environment of the monument with the historical texture	A.1. Removal of unqualified structures in the immediate vicinity of the memorial work	Uzundere District Governorship	Uzundere District Governorship						The number of buildings removed and close-up photography
CON.5: Fighting against the abandonment situation of the area	A.1. Increasing the socio-economic level of the area	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality Uzundere District Governorship Erzurum Governorship, Eastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration, Northeast Anatolia Development Agency, TUREB, Çağlayan Science, Culture, and Art Association, Sapaca Culture and Tourism Association, Erzurum Tourism Envoys Association, Uzundere Women Labor Appraisal Association						Comparison of the initial income level with the income level after 5 years
CON.6: Revitalization of the structure	A.1. Determining the most appropriate function for the building and developing suggestions/methods for refunctioning	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations Atatürk and Erzurum Technical Universities Architecture Departments						Documentation of functional transformation suggestions/methods
UD.1: Urban development is not limited to the monument	A.1. Carrying out sanitation works in all streets within the management area	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality						Reporting of the activities carried out with photos

work environment, but spreads to the whole area	AA.2. Construction of a park, garden, etc. for recreational activities								
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

The research objectives are to expand scientific studies on the religious buildings of the Tao-Klarjeti region and Oshki Monastery and improve access to information on the religious buildings of the Tao-Klarjeti region (Table 5).

Table 5. Research action plan

RESEARCHING									
AIMS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	FINANCE SOURCE	DURATION(YEAR)					CONTROL DIRECTION
RES.1: Increasing academic studies on the religious buildings of the Tao-Klarjeti Region and the Eshki Monastery	A.1. Conducting an academic study on the history of the Tao-Klarjeti Region	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University Department of History	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University Department of History						Comparison of the number of academic publications compared to the beginning
	A.2. Investigation of the monastery from the point of view of archeology and art history	Ataturk University Department of Art History	Ataturk University Department of Art History						Comparison of the number of academic publications compared to the beginning
	A.3. Investigation of the monastery in terms of architectural character	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University Department of Architecture	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University Department of Architecture						Comparison of the number of academic publications compared to the beginning
	A.4. The structural (static, hardware, etc.) of the monastery.) research	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University Faculty of Engineering	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University Faculty of Engineering						Comparison of the number of academic publications compared to the beginning
	A.5. Holding scientific meetings to increase the recognition of the monastery	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University						Comparison of scientific meetings compared to the beginning
RES.2: Increasing information access to religious buildings of the Tao-Klarjeti Region	A.1. Establishment of a database where all information about the region can be easily accessed	Uzundere District Governorship	Metropolitan Mayor's Office						Providing access to the database

Infrastructure/access goals; facilitating visitor access to the area and improving the living conditions of the population (Table 6).

Table 6. Infrastructure/access action plan

INFRASTRUCTURE/ACCESS									
AIMS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	FINANCE SOURCE	DURATION(YEAR)					CONTROL DIRECTION
ACC.1: Facilitating the access of visitors to the area	A.1. Construction of the visitor parking lot	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality						Reporting of the studies carried out with
	A.2. Transportation of								

	public transportation between Erzurum and Tortum area								photographs
UN.1: Improving the living conditions of the people	A.1. Elimination of street lighting deficiencies	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality						Reporting of the studies carried out with photographs
	A.2. Construction of a safe pedestrian path								
	A.3. Making park, garden, and square arrangements								
	A.4. Sanitation of the stream flowing through the neighborhood and participation in recreation								

Presentation/promotion/tourism objectives; increase awareness of the area through sightseeing tours, increase awareness of the area in the national context, increase awareness of the area in the international context (Table 7).

Table 7. Presentation, promotion, and tourism action plan

PRESENTATION/PROMOTION/TOURISM									
AIMS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	FINANCE SOURCE	DURATION(YEAR)					CONTROL DIRECTION
TOR.1: Increasing the recognition of the area within the scope of sightseeing tours	A.1. Creation of an excursion route for the religious buildings of the Tao-Klarjeti Region	TURSAB Erzurum Regional Representation Board	KUDAKA						Planning of the excursion route
	A.2. Regular sightseeing tours between Erzurum and Artvin also include the Oshki Monastery Dec.	Local Travel Agencies	-						Number of organized trips
	A.3. Planning of sightseeing tours to this region from Georgia	Ministry of Culture of Georgia	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Number of organized trips
TOR.2: Increasing the recognition of the field in the national context	A.1. Preparation and presentation of promotional materials (poster, video, etc.)	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (General Directorate of Promotion) Related TV, Radio Channels	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Reporting of the studies carried out with photographs
	A.2. Organizing and announcing competitions for the field (short film, story, photography, etc.)	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (General Directorate of Promotion)	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Reporting of the studies carried out with photographs
	A.3. Holding a festival for Turkish-Georgian culture in the area	Erzurum Governorship (Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism) Ministry of Culture of Georgia	Erzurum Governorship						Number of people attending the festival
	A.4. Establishment of digital platforms for promotion (such as social media, web page)	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (General Directorate of Promotion) Gürcistan Kültür Bakanlığı	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Reporting of the studies carried out with photographs

	A.5. Conducting excursion programs for students of the department of history, art history, and architecture of universities	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University (transport) Ministry of Youth and Sports (accommodation)						Number of organized trips
TOR.2: Increasing the international recognition of the field	A.1. Preparation and presentation of promotional materials in different languages (posters, videos, etc.)	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (General Directorate of Promotion) Related TV, Radio Channels	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Reporting of the studies carried out with photographs
	A.2. To organize a mass with a weekly program at the Oshki Monastery and to announce it in major churches in /out of the country	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (General Directorate of Promotion) Embassies	T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism						Reporting of the studies carried out with photographs

The objectives of local awareness/participation are to increase the local people's awareness of conservation and to increase the local people's knowledge of the area (Table 8).

Table 8. Local awareness/participation action plan

LOCAL AWARENESS/PARTICIPATION									
AIMS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	FINANCE SOURCE	DURATION(YEAR)					CONTROL DIRECTION
LOC.1: Increasing the protection awareness of local people	E.1. To carry out information activities about world heritage by dividing the local people into age groups	Erzurum Governorship (Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism)	Erzurum Governorship						Reporting of the studies carried out with photographs
	E.2. Conducting excursion programs for students of the department of history, art history, and architecture programs and universities affiliated with the Ministry of National Education in Erzurum	Ministry of National Education Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University	Ministry of National Education Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University						Number of organized trips
PAR.1: Increasing the knowledge of local people about the field	E.1. Providing certified guidance training to young people residing in the neighborhood	TUREB	TUREB						Determination of the number of people trained

The goals of education/capacity development are to increase the potential of the area and to increase the economic level of the area (Table 9). In view of the conditions at the time and the use of local materials, the use of stone was paramount. Other natural building materials (such as wood) were unsuitable for climatic conditions. The monastery also features important decorative stone carvings. Stone is not only used as a building material, but is also widely used in the design of decorative elements. This is one of the features that distinguishes the monastery from other buildings of the time. Therefore, the education/capacity development action plans also propose the training of master stonemasons to popularize the use of traditional building techniques and local materials and to revive forgotten crafts in the region.

Table 9. Education/capacity development action plan

EDUCATION/CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT									
AIMS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	FINANCE SOURCE	DURATION(YEAR)					CONTROL DIRECTION
EDU.1: To increase the potential in the field	A.1. Providing entrepreneurship education on topics such as promotion, presentation, and marketing for field-specific values	Ataturk University Erzurum Technical University Public Education Centers	Uzundere District Governorship						Determination of the number of people trained
	A.2. Organization of courses to increase the literacy rate	Ministry of National Education	Ministry of National Education						Determination of the number of people trained
	A.3. Upbringing of a master of stone processing	Ministry of National Education	Ministry of National Education						Determination of the number of trained professional staff people
CAP.1: Increasing the economic level of the area	A.1. Establishment of local Sundays for the sale of walnuts, honey, and quince, which are products with economic return	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality						Number of established markets
	A.2. Agreements with district / provincial artisans for the sale of walnut, honey, and quince produced	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality						The number of deals made, and the number of products sold
	A.3. To encourage participation in local product fairs organized in Türkiye	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality						Number of fairs
	A.4. Supporting local production and craftsmanship specific to the region	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality Eastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration, Northeast Anatolia Development Agency, Çağlayan Science, Culture, and Art Association, Uzundere Women Labor Appraisal Association						Number of events and trained staff
	A.5. Ensuring local participation in restoration and conservation works in the region	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations	Erzurum General Directorate of Foundations						Number of trained staff
	A.6. Organizing events and festivals specific to local culture of the region and Georgian culture	Uzundere District Municipality	Uzundere District Municipality						Number of events

	A.7. Developing sustainable tourism in the region-cultural and architectural tours, faith tourism etc.	TUREB	TUREB Sapaca Culture and Tourism Association, Erzurum Tourism Envoys Association, Uzundere District Municipality							Number of events
--	--	-------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	------------------

FINDINGS AND EVALUATION

In order to implement the proposed action plans in the case study area, it is important that all the governmental institutions and related NGO's work together, hold regular focus groups meeting, and continue to monitor and control the work done. In addition, during the process and at the end of the allotted time of the actions, periodic should be prepared in which the necessary data about the work is processed and its format is determined in advance. For the actions to function smoothly, the institution responsible for carrying out the reporting, its content, and its frequency must be clearly defined. In the event of a malfunction, the head of the field management should contact the institution responsible for the action and, if necessary, define further strategies together with the members of the advisory board. To guarantee the financing of the actions proposed in the site management plan for the area, it is also important and necessary that the responsible governmental institutions prepare their budget planning each year to provide the necessary funds for the actions in question. In addition, European Union and World Heritage Fund projects may also be considered for funding.

The condition assessment of reports the case study area, Oshki Monastery, showed deficiencies mainly in the areas of protection and promotion, and further proposals for action were developed for these areas. Despite the fact that the building is registered, due to the lack of a land use plan for protection purposes, many unqualified buildings have been built around it. This situation has had a negative impact on the silhouette of the building from an aesthetic point of view. The static deformations of the structure, the loss of materials on the facades, and the effects of vandalism show the inadequacy of the protection. The opening of tourist information centers for the area, the increase in the number of scientific events such as workshops, congresses, and panel discussions, and the organization of social events such as festivals, celebrations, and fairs should be developed in terms of presentation, promotion and tourism.

It is suggested that 3R projects should be prepared and the necessary conservation measures for the protection/urban development goals should be carried out first. It is not considered sufficient that the building is registered and development plans are expected to be prepared to protect the surrounding area. In order to ensure the sustainability of the conservation measures taken, it is necessary to raise awareness of this issue among the local population. It is expected that all measures are to be completed within 5 years.

The actions established for the research objectives take the form of inventorying and archiving. The archive created should be published on online platforms (digital archive) with open access and in different languages. In this context, the studies of Atatürk University and Erzurum Technical University should be strengthened.

The actions identified for the infrastructure/access goals are aimed at meeting the needs of locals and visitors. They are the construction of a parking lot for pedestrians and vehicles to facilitate access to the area, the improvement of lighting, and the creation of the possibility of an open urban area with parking, gardening, and square facilities.

The planned actions, focused on presentation, promotion, and tourist destinations, should be carried out in the short term to increase awareness of the area. Activities such as promotional videos, short films, and festivals are actions that have a high potential to attract tourists. It is also important to offer more sightseeing tours in cooperation with Turkish and Georgian travel agencies.

To ensure the sustainability of the management plan in terms of protection and promotion, the personal participation of the local population should be ensured. The public, sensitised through training, should be encouraged to participate in guidance activities through vocational training courses.

To increase socioeconomic capacity in the area, entrepreneurship training should be offered to the local population. Courses should be organized for adults who cannot read and write, and the production of local products such as walnuts, honey, and quince, which have a high economic return, should be encouraged. New production areas should be developed.

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The monasteries of the Tao-Klarjeti region are a common value of Georgian culture and Christian faith. They have the potential to be included in the World Heritage List with their outstanding universal values, as it is a type of building that indicates an important stage of human history and is directly connected with faith. It is proposed as a Transboundary Property for the World Heritage List in order to protect it and increase its recognition. The study is important as it promotes the concept of common cultural heritage, cultural dialogue and cooperation between Türkiye and Georgia and contributes to the sustainable development of the Tao Klarjeti region.

The Site Management Plan, which is one of the requirements for inscribing a cultural property on the List, is a sustainable tool for the protection of World Heritage. For this reason, Oshki Monastery, which is located within the political boundaries of the Republic of Türkiye, was selected as an example within the scope of the study and the preliminary study of the Site Management Plan was carried out.

It is expected that the study will lead to the preparation of action plans and management proposals for other monasteries in the region. Within this framework, a preliminary study for the management plan was prepared based on the basic guidelines.

First, the administrative boundaries of the proposed area are defined. The Tao-Klarjeti region, which includes other monasteries of a similar nature, has been identified as a macro-level interaction area. It is necessary to create a management plan for all Georgian monasteries in this region. In this way, the area can be included in the World Heritage List and its protection will be ensured in a holistic way. Uzundere district, with which the cultural property is administratively connected, was identified as a micro-level interaction area. This region, which has a high potential for ecotourism, will also support the activities of the monastery and faith tourism. Because, ecotourism is supported by architecture, as it merges with the environment and represents local life with a user experience. It can help raise awareness of the available resources, craftsmanship and culture of the region and support the economy and identity of the place. Architectural heritage in ecotourism areas will also increase the number of visitors who want to experience nature and cultural tourism activities together (Akpınar Külekçi & Bulut, 2012).

“In the area where the monastery is located, 60% of the local population is between 15 and 64 years old” (TÜİK, 2023). The high percentage of young and adult people is of great importance for the sustainability of the management plan. This age group plays a significant role in the formation of conservation awareness and increases the economic level through presentation, promotion, and tourism activities.

A land use plan for protection, which includes the removal of unqualified buildings in the immediate vicinity of the monastery, the construction of a park, a garden, a square, etc. for recreational activities and a parking lot for visitors is also proposed. In view of the structural problems and superficial deformations on the historic structure, it is also recommended that a thorough survey be conducted first to identify all risk factors and structural problems, take preventive conservation measures, and then prepare and implement conservation projects once approved. Inadequate security measures (lack of a camera system) increase the risk of destruction/vandalism of the monastery and there are already problems such as loss of materials on the facades and vandalism. Therefore, a camera system should be installed in and around the monastery and street lighting should be installed. In order to improve the recognition and scientific studies about the religious buildings of Tao-Klarjeti region and Oshki monastery, it is proposed to conduct scientific studies about the history of Tao-Klarjeti region, to conduct archaeological, architectural, structural and art history studies about the monastery and the region. It is also suggested to hold scientific meetings and to establish a database where all information about the region will be easily accessible.

Author Contribution Rate

Order	Name Surname	ORCID	Contribution to Writing*
1	Beyza Nur ÇALIŞKAN KELEŞ	0000-0002-3257-352X	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	Gülşen DİŞLİ	0000-0003-2620-0492	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
*The number(s) corresponding to the relevant explanation in the contribution section have been written			
1. Designing the study 2. Collecting the data 3. Analysis and interpretation of the data 4. Writing the article 5. Critical revision			

Conflict of Interest

There is no personal and/or financial conflict of interest within the scope of the study.

REFERENCES

- Akpınar Külekçi, E. and Bulut, Y. (2012). Erzurum ili Oltu ve Olur ilçelerinde en uygun ekoturizm etkinliğinin analitik hiyerarşi süreci yöntemi ile belirlenmesi. *Atatürk Üniversitesi Ziraat Fakültesi Dergisi*, 43(2), 175–189.
- Aytekin, O. and Korkut, T. (2020). Öşki Manastır Kilisesi'ndeki taş süsleme teknikleri ve uygulama yöntemleri üzerine bir değerlendirme. Işıklı, M., Akarsu, R., Yavuz, E. and Yurttaş, E. (ed.) *Tarih Boyunca Anadolu - Gürcistan İlişkileri Sempozyumu*. Ankara. 607–624.
- Bayram, F. (2005). *Artvin'deki Gürcü manastırlarının mimarisi*. Ege Yayınları. İstanbul.
- Canöz, M. E. (2019). *Artvin'deki bir grup orta çağ Bagratlı dönemi kilise mimarisinde Bizans etkileri*. Hiper.

- Ceylan, A. (2017). Yeni bulgular ışığında Kuzeydoğu Anadolu'da Diauehi Krallığı ve Urartular. *Kafkas Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi*, (20), 517-568. [DOI:10.9775/kausbcd.2017.032](https://doi.org/10.9775/kausbcd.2017.032)
- Chen, Y., Ying, B. and Xiong, K. 2017. A study on the conservation strategy of South China karst series heritage sites. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture and Biology*, 36(3), 54–60.
- Djobadze, W. (1992). *Earlymedieval Georgian Monasteriesinhistoric Tao Klarjet'i and Savset'i*. F. VerlagSteiner. Stuttgart
- Feilden, B. M. and Jokilehto, J. (1998). *Management guidelines for world cultural heritage sites*. ICCROM. Rome.
- Güven, O. (2020). About the religious importance of Tao-Klarjeti. *History, Archaeology, Ethnology*, (3), 96–110.
- Hosseini, K., Stefaniec, A., and Hosseini, S. P. (2021). World Heritage Sites in developing countries: Assessing impacts and handling complexities toward sustainable tourism. *Journal of Destination Marketing and Management*, 20, 100616. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdmm.2021.100616>
- Jimber Del Rio, J. A., Hernández-Rojas, R. D., Vergara-Romero, A., and Dancausa Millán, M. G. D. (2020). Loyalty in heritage tourism: The case of Córdoba and its four world heritage sites. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(23), 8950. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17238950>
- Kavali, E. (2022). Tao-Klardjetie bölgesi, Bagrat Krallığı (7-12. yy.) dönemi dini yapı harçları (Publication No. 738442) [Yüksek Lisans Tezi Atatürk Üniversitesi]. YÖK Ulusal Tez Merkezi.
- Kaymaz, Ç. K., Çakır, Ç., Birinci, S., and Kızıllan, Y. (2021). GIS-Fuzzy DEMATEL MCDA model in the evaluation of the areas for ecotourism development: A case study of “Uzundere”. *Applied Geography*, 136, 102577. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2021.102577>
- Korkut, T. (2017). İshan Manastır Kilisesi'nin geometrik plastik bezeme programı. *XX. Uluslararası Ortaçağ ve Türk Dönemi Kazıları ve Sanat Tarihi Araştırmaları Sempozyumu Bildirileri*, 2, 835–851.
- Korkut, T. (2019a). Tao-Klarceti bölgesi Hristiyan dini mimarisi plastik bezemelerinde orans duruş geleneği. *Güzel Sanatlar Enstitüsü Dergisi*, (43), 44-56. [doi:10.32547/ataunigsed.536972](https://doi.org/10.32547/ataunigsed.536972)
- Korkut, T. (2019b). Anadolu Gürcü dini mimarisinde cephe düzenleme teknikleri (Öşki Manastır Kilisesi Örneği). *Turkish Studies - Social Sciences*, 14(3), 769-790. [doi: 10.29228/TurkishStudies.22840](https://doi.org/10.29228/TurkishStudies.22840)
- Li, Y., Lau, C., and Su, P. (2020). Heritage tourism stakeholder conflict: A case of a World Heritage Site in China. *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*, 18(3), 267–287. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14766825.2020.1722141>
- Menna, M. R. (2021). Pittori e costruttori nella cattedrale di Ishkhani (Tao-Klarjeti). *Domus sapienter staurata Scritti di storia dell'arte per Marina Righetti*. SilvanaEditoriale. 95–102.
- Özkan, H. (1996). Karma planlı kiliselere Doğu Anadolu'dan bir örnek Öşkvank (Oschki) Kilisesi. *Atatürk Üniversitesi Güzel Sanatlar Enstitüsü Dergisi*, (3), 97–119

- Özkan, H. (2006). Tortum Haho (Hahuli) Manastırı ve Türk sanatıyla olan ilişkileri. *Atatürk Üniversitesi Güzel Sanatlar Enstitüsü Dergisi*, (6), 161–181.
- Özkan, H. (2010). *Öşkvank Manastırı*. Atatürk Üniversitesi Yayınları. Erzurum
- Saganelidze, M. (2019). *Tao-Klarjeti Tarih ve Efsaneler*. <https://gdk.tc/q/gOvEFM>
- Song, F., Zhu, J. J., and Li, Y. F. (2009). Retrospection on the integrity principle of world heritage review of the 4 concepts of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. *Chinese Landscape Architecture*, 5, 14–18.
- Svels, K. (2015). World heritage, tourism and community involvement: A comparative study of the high coast (Sweden) and Kvarken Archipelago (Finland). *Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality and Tourism*, 15(1-2), 183-201. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15022250.2015.1009708>
- TUİK (2023, 24 Ocak). *Adrese Dayalı Nüfus Kayıt Sistemi Sonuçları, 2023*. <https://gdk.tc/q/hzGqwF>
- UNESCO (2005). *29th session of the World Heritage Committee, Durban, South Africa, 10-17 July 2005*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/29COM/decisions/>
- UNESCO. (2021). *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>
- UNESCO. (2022). *Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval Anatolia*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1694/documents/>
- UNESCO (2024a). *World Heritage List*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>
- UNESCO (2024b). *Moravian Church Settlements*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1468>
- Yang, X., Xiao, S., Xiao, X., and Xiao, H. (2022). A literature review on transboundary world heritage properties. *International Journal of Geoheritage and Parks*. 10(3), 447–455. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgeop.2022.08.004>
- Zakharova, A. and Mal'tseva, S. (2017). The Materials of Nikolai Okunev's Expedition of 1917 on the Wall Paintings of Parkhali1. *Actual Problems of Theory and History of Art: Collection of Articles*, 7, 679–688.
- Zhang, J., Xiong, K., Liu, Z., and He, L. (2022). Research progress and knowledge system of world heritage tourism: a bibliometric analysis. *Heritage Science*, 10(1), 42. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40494-022-00654-0>
- Wang, K. 2007. Integrating development of cross-border tourism regions [Doctorial Dissertation, East China Normal University].
- Wang, L.P. 2011. The theory and practice of cultural heritage corridor construction: A case study of the ancient tea and horse road in Yunnan-Tibet Guizhou. *Ethnic Studies*, 32(5), 61–66.
- Xiao, S. and Zheng, M. 2018. Collaborative management of serial world heritage: China Danxia. *The New Era of Ecological Civilization*, 5, 50–55.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Beyza Nur ÇALIŞKAN KELEŞ

Received her MSc from the Department of Architecture at Gazi University in 2021 and is currently pursuing a PhD in the Department of Architecture at Necmettin Erbakan University. She is working as a research assistant at the Department of Architecture, Atatürk University. Her research interests include world heritage, conservation, sustainability, area management, and accessibility.

Gülşen DİŞLİ

Received her MSc from the Department of Architecture at Middle East Technical University in 2008 and the University of Minnesota and earned her PhD from the Department of Architecture at Gazi University in 2014. She is currently working as a Professor at the Department of Architecture, Necmettin Erbakan University. Her research interests include architecture in tourism, cultural heritage, and architectural heritage conservation.