

GOCE DELCEV UNIVERSITY OF STIP FACULTY OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS LOGISTICS

PROCEEDINGS

THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC

CHALLENGES OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS LOGISTICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Stip, September 13th, 2019 North Macedonia



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North Macedonia

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Publisher:

Faculty of Tourism and Business logistics

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"Krste Misirkov" no.10-A P.O. Box 201 Stip 2000, North Macedonia

Tel: +389 32 550 350 www.ftbl.ugd.edu.mk www.ugd.edu.mk

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CIP - Каталогизација во публикација

Национална и универзитетска библиотека Св. "Климент Охридски", Скопје

338.48(062)

INTERNATIONAL scientific conference "Challenges of tourism and business logistics in the 21st century, ISCTBL (2; 2019; Stip)

Proceedings / Second international scientific conference "Challenges of tourism and business logistics in 21st century, ISCTBL, Stip, September 13th, 2019. – Shtip: University "Goce Delcev" - Shtip, Faculty of tourism and business logistics - Gevgelija, 2019. - 358 илустр.; 25 см

Фусноти кон текстот. - Библиографија кон трудовите

ISBN 978-608-244-693-6

a) Туризам - Собири COBISS.MK-ID 111863818

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Snežana Štetić, The College of Tourism, Belgrade, Serbia

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IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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PREFACE

The Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics in Gevgelia, at the Goce Delcev University of

Stip, hosted the Second International Scientific Conference, "Challenges of Tourism and

Business Logistics in the 21st Century".

The conference was held on 13 September 2019 in Stip, with 35 works of 62 authors from

Serbia, Croatian, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Macedonia that were presented at the

Conference.

The purpose of the Conference is exchange of ideas and experiences of the participants coming

from Macedonia and abroad, and establishment of cooperation for further development of

tourism and business logistics in Macedonia and beyond.

The results of the Conference are visible through publication in a collection of papers, which is

presented to a wider scientific audience and the public. In this way, we want to promote the

Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics, promote Stip as the most visited settlement in the

eastern part of Macedonia.

Stip,

September, 13th, 2019

Editor Nikola V. Dimitrov, Ph.D. *Dean*

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UNESCO'S ROLE IN THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE: A CASE STUDY OF THE OHRID REGION

Darko Majhoshev¹

Abstract

UNESCO was founded in 1946 as a UN specialized organization for the protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage. The UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites has 1,112 sites, of which 860 are cultural, 213 are natural, 39 are combined and they are located on the territories in 167 states. The Republic of North Macedonia has been a member of UNESCO since June 28, 1993, and the city of Ohrid, with its natural and cultural heritage, has been under the protection of this organization since 1979, i.e. 1980. Due to the huge and uncontrolled expansion of tourism and unplanned urban development in the Ohrid region, the natural and cultural heritage of this protected area is in great danger. In addition to the World Heritage List, in the framework of its activities, UNESCO also keeps a List of World Heritage in Danger. The basic research question we will answer in this paper is how endangered the natural heritage of the Ohrid region is, what the reasons for it are, or how much UNESCO is committed to the protection of the World Natural Heritage in this region? We will answer this question by applying the case study method for the Ohrid region, from 1979 and 1980 to the 43rd session of the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Baku, Azerbaijan, held from 30.06.- 10.07. 2019.

Key Words: cultural, heritage, natural, Ohrid, Unesco

JEL classification: Z32

Introduction

UNESCO (Eng. *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation*) was founded on November 16, 1946 as a UN specialized agency *whose primary mission is to protect, promote and advance education, science and culture at a global level, i.e. to promote and respect human rights and freedoms.* The basic motto of UNESCO is "*Building peace in the minds of women and men*". The UNESCO headquarters is in Paris, but there are over 54 offices around the world.² UNESCO has 193 member states and 11 associate members.³ UNESCO operates in five major programmes: education, natural sciences, sociology, culture and communications. This organization supports literacy projects, technical and pedagogy development, regional cultural history, cultural diversity and programmes that support international agreements for the protection of the World Heritage.

UNESCO bodies are General Conference, Executive Board, Secretariat and Director General. The General Conference has 195 members and it meets every two years. It determines the main directions of UNESCO's policy, adopts the programme and budget of the organization, elects the Executive Board and appoints the Director General. The working languages of the General Conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

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²https://en.unesco.org/countries/field-offices, open on 21.07.2019;

³UNESCO, https://en.unesco.org/countries, open on 22.07.2019;

The Executive Board has 58 members, elected by the General Conference based on the principle of equitable representation from different geographical areas. It is the executive body of the Conference and it meets twice a year. It executes the decisions and tasks entrusted to it by the General Conference and the obligations arising from the UNESCO Constitution. The Secretariat is the UNESCO's executive branch and it consists of the Director General and the staff appointed by him. The Secretariat has 680 employees, divided into professional and general offices distributed in 54 offices worldwide.

UNESCO's lists

Since 1972, UNESCO has compiled a List of World Heritage Sites nominated by the World Heritage Commission of this organization, based on the Programme deriving from the *Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage* adopted by the UNESCO General Assembly in 1972. The Convention has been ratified by 190 member states⁴.

UNESCO maintains multiple World Heritage lists, of which the most important are: The World Heritage List; the List of World Heritage in Danger; World Heritage List Nominations; List of UNESCO Global Geoparks – 147 in 41 countries, UNESCO Atlas of the Worlds Languages in Danger, Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage, etc.

UNESCO List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites contains 1,112 sites, of which 860 are cultural, 213 natural, and 39 combined that are located on the territories of 167 countries. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has put 53 natural sites on the World Heritage List in danger, located in 32 countries around the world, most of them in Africa and the Middle East. The Committee's decision adopted in 2017, which places the historic centre of Vienna on the List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in Danger, is a curiosity.

List of World Heritage in Danger. UNESCO is also preparing a List of World Heritage in Danger endangered by armed conflict and war, earthquake and other natural disasters, pollution, and uncontrolled urbanization.⁶ In 2019, a total number of 53 properties have been put on the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger.⁷

World Heritage List Nominations. This is the third type of a list kept by UNESCO. The first step a country must take is to make an 'inventory' of its important natural and cultural heritage sites located within its boundaries. This 'inventory' is known as the Tentative List, and provides a forecast of the properties that a State Party may decide to submit for inscription on its national list for nomination in the next five to ten years and which may be updated at any time. It is an important step since the World Heritage Committee cannot consider a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List unless the property has already been included on the State Party's Tentative List.⁸

List of UNESCO Global Geoparks. UNESCO also maintains a List of Global Geoparks and the number of sites in the Global UNESCO Geoparks Network is brought to 147 in 41 countries.

⁴UNESCO, UNESCO *World Heritage Atlas*, UNESCO, Paris, France, 2012, States - parties of the Convention can be found on: http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/

⁵http://whc.unesco.org/en/list, retrieved on 06.07.2019;

⁶http://whc.unesco.org/en/158/, retrieved on07.07.2019;

⁷https://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/, retrieved on20.07.2019

⁸http://whc.unesco.org/en/nominations/, retrieved on08.07.2019;

In April 2019, the UNESCO's Executive Board approved the designation of eight new sites demonstrating the diversity of the planet's geology as new Geoparks.

UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger. UNESCO has prepared two editions of the Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger – online and in a printed form. The Atlas offers information about the languages in danger, but it is also a tool anyone can use to suggest a language in danger that should be included in the Atlas.

List of Intangible Cultural Heritage was introduced in 2008 based on the 2003 Convention for the Conservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2013, the Republic of North Macedonia included in this List the Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs (known as Cetrse) which is celebrated in Stip, and in 2014 the famous folk dance Kopacka which is cherished in the village Dramce, Delcevsko was added to the List.

Universal values of the Ohrid region

The Republic of North Macedonia has been a member of UNESCO since 28 June 1993, and the city of Ohrid, with its natural and cultural heritage has been under the protection of this organization since 1979, i.e. 1980. Each UNESCO member state, including the Republic of North Macedonia, has a National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO tasked with implementing the UNESCO Programme in our country. The report of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee states that the Lake Ohrid Region is a mixed world heritage (natural and cultural) with an area of 94,729 hectares. Lake Ohrid is a superlative natural phenomenon that is home to 200 endemic and relict freshwater species of flora and fauna and 17 endemic fish species, including two species of trout, as well as a rich bird stock.

The city of Ohrid is located on the shores of Lake Ohrid and is one of the oldest settlements in Europe built between the VII and XIX centuries. The city of Ohrid is home to the oldest Slavic monastery of St. Panteleimon and over 800 icons dating from the XI to the end of the XIV century.

In the old part of Ohrid, seven basilicas have been discovered so far that were built during the IV, V and early VI century. In the city core of Ohrid, there are also many archaeological sites of early Christian basilicas that are known for their mosaic floors.

Furthermore, the city of Ohrid is famous for its old urban architecture from the period of late Otoman urban life. The Lake Ohrid region boasts of the oldest Slavic monastery and the first Slavic university in the Balkans - the Ohrid Literary School that spread writing, education and culture throughout the ancient Slavic world.

The institutions responsible for the protection of natural and cultural heritage in the region of Lake Ohrid are the Ministry of Culture and The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments and Museums in Ohrid has the authority to protect cultural heritage, and the Natural-historical Museum in Strugais responsible for the protection of movable heritage. Galicica National Park is authorized to manage the natural heritage of the park as a whole and part of the cultural heritage located on the territory of the Park. The Institute of Hydrobiology in Ohrid is responsible for continuous monitoring of the Lake Ohrid ecosystem, research and care for the flora and fauna of Lake Ohrid.

⁹UNESCO, The World Heritage Committee, Decision 43COM 8B.9, WHC/19/43.COM/19, 43rd Session, Baku, Azerbaijan, 30.06.-10.07.2019 (pdf);

Case study: Ohrid region

The city of Ohrid and its surroundings are inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979 with the Decision (recorded asCC-79/CONF.003/13, Paris, 30 November, 1979) of the World Heritage Committee on the 3rd Session held from 22.10.to26.10.1979 in the city of Luxor, in Egypt. In 1979, Lake Ohrid was first inscribed on the World Heritage List under *natural criteria* according to criterion (iii) for superlative natural phenomena, which today is criterion (vii).In 1980, the property of world heritage was extended to include *cultural criteria* as well (i),(iii), and (iv) and it became one of the first mixed properties of world heritage. Based on Art. 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO member states are required to submit information to the World Heritage Committee with a list of cultural and natural heritage located in their territory to be placed on the "*List of World Heritage in Danger*" with a concrete estimate of the cost of their removal. In addition, UNESCO member states are also subject to continuous monitoring of the behaviour of state authorities and institutions towards the protection of the natural and cultural heritage of their territory.

The List of World Heritage in Danger may include part of the cultural and natural heritage endangered by serious and specific hazards, such as the threat of extinction caused by accelerated deterioration, large public or private projects or rapid urban or tourism development projects; destruction caused by changes in land use or ownership; major changes for unknown reasons; abandonment for any reason epidemic or threat of armed conflict; disasters and cataclysms; serious fires, earthquakes, landslides; volcanic eruptions; changes in water levels, floods and tidal waves.

The Committee may at any time amend the List of World Heritage in Danger and publish it immediately. In the period 1998-2019, the following previous monitoring missions were carried out in the region of Ohrid: In September 1998: for the first time since the inscription of the Ohrid region on the World Heritage List, the Joint World Heritage Centre / mission International Council on Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS / IUCN, carried out monitoring. In the Report, the Mission emphasizes that economic and demographic development poses a serious threat to the values of this region, and that they can only be addressed through an integrated attitude and protection measures relating to the protection of cultural and natural heritage. The World Heritage Bureau in Kyoto, Japan, discussed the state of its protection (Decision 22 Com VII.30);

In 2008, the World Heritage Committee launched the "Upstream" process, as a reflection of the future of this cultural heritage. The "Upstream" process is an experimental approach that aims to reduce the number of goods that suffer significant problems during the candidacy process for entry into the World Heritage List.

In 2009, the World Heritage Committee approved a minimal modification of the borders, which slightly reduces the northern and western borders to this property. As part of this process, the Committee encourages the creation of a contact zone, and it takes steps towards extending the World Heritage property across borders so as to include the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid.

In 2011, by decision 35 COM 12C. the World Heritage Committee selected ten pilot projects to test the efficiency of the "Upstream" process, including the pilot project: "The Natural and

Cultural Heritage of Lake Ohrid" (Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of North Macedonia.

In 2011, Albania submitted the Ohrid region's cultural and natural heritage on the *tentative list* as a possible UNESCO site, as a first step in the process of expanding the World Heritage.

In 2012, in the first phase of the "Upstream" process, an Advisory Mission was carried out to determine the feasibility of extending Albania's already inscribed property. The mission was carried out by two World Heritage Committee advisory bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) and funded through the International Assistance Fund for World Heritage. The mission identified following major threats: *unplanned urban development, wastewater and solid waste disposal, destruction and depletion of natural resources*.

In 2014, in the second phase of the "Upstream" pilot project, the project "Towards Enhanced Management of the Transboundary Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region" was initiated.

In April 2017, a Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission of the Joint World Heritage Committee - ICOMOS and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - IUCN at UNESCO was carried out. UNESCO urged the Government of North Macedonia to introduce a moratorium on all coastal and urban transformations of the Ohrid region, by 01.02.2018 at the latest.

The factors that have influenced the inscription of the Ohrid Region on the World Heritage List in Danger, and which have been identified in previous UNESCO reports are as follows:

- Management systems/ management plan
- Buildings and development
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (proposed Galicica Ski Centre)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation

The Report states, inter alia, "The UNESCO Mission expressed concern about increased traffic and tourism pressure and related inappropriate infrastructure projects, including the proposed development of the Galicica ski resort, and the incremental and uncoordinated urban developments, the expressway and other individual and uncoordinated urban development projects. These pressures could deteriorate key attributes of the natural and cultural values of the property (such as the overall form of the monumental urban ensemble and the lake region's biodiversity), if no immediate measures are taken "10"

Activities taken by the Republic of North Macedonia

¹⁰http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/, retrieved on 28.07.2019

Based on the observations made by UNESCO in 2017, the Republic of North Macedonia submitted a Report to the World Heritage Committee, which outlines activities that made progress in the following sectors:

- The revised Management Plan is to be adopted by the State Party upon completion of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- The establishment of a management committee to control development pressures and interventions at the property has begun and the procedure for appointing committee members is in its final stage;
- A Draft Plan for Integrated Protection of the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid was prepared in 2016 and adopted on 23 February 2017; the preparation of urban plans for 19 complexes within the city of Ohrid are expected to be finalized during 2017;
- Technical documentation for a number of large-scale infrastructure works are being prepared (in particular the Railway Corridor VIII, Highway A2 and expressway A3);
- Urban planning documentation is being prepared for seven development or tourism zones, one of which covers some 290 ha (Ljubanishta 2, previously cancelled) and for one sport airfield in Kalishte, Struga, as well as for the construction of piers and pontoons in Ohrid, the repair of piers in St. Naum, Radozhda, Trpeijca, Peshtani and the construction of a platform near Ohrid airport and of a pedestrian path in Ohrid;
- Updates on the wastewater drainage project funded by European Investment Bank for villages within Debarca, Struga and Ohrid municipalities;
- The State Party (in this case North Macedonia) continues to cooperate in the framework of the Upstream Process towards the extension of the property to the Albanian side of the lake.

The following additional information was provided to the World Heritage Centre in May 2017: An environmental analysis of the Lagadin Beach landscaping project, a draft version of the Tourism Development Strategy for Ohrid Municipality (both in Macedonian), a report from the Hydrobiological Institute outlining factors affecting the current situation of pollution and changes to the water level in Lake Ohrid and a number of inventories and maps prepared by the National Institution for the Protection of Monuments of Culture and Museum – Ohrid with cultural attributes located within the boundaries of the property.

Conclusions of the delegation Visit of the World Heritage Centre and Reactive Monitoring Mission

From 9 to 14 April 2017, the Joint World Heritage Centre (ICOMOS) and the Reactive Monitoring Mission (IUCN) visited the Ohrid region and prepared a report. The Report provides the following conclusions:

- 1. The state has taken some steps to implement the Recommendations of the World Heritage Protection Committee, but there is still no breakthrough such as the preparation of an Integrated Protection Proposal, the establishment of a steering committee.
- 2. The mission expressed concern about increased pressure in traffic and tourism and inappropriate infrastructure projects, including the proposed development of the ski

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¹¹The report is available athttp://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/documents/.

centre Galicica, and individual and uncoordinated urban developments. These pressures could exacerbate key attributes of natural and cultural property values (such as the overall shape of the monumental urban ensemble and lake region biodiversity), unless urgent measures are taken. In addition, inadequate treatment of wastewater and solid waste can cause eutrophication and pollution, undermining the oligotrophic quality of lake water, on which its remarkable biodiversity depends.

- 3. The mission also reviewed the project for building a railway linking Kicevo (outside of the property) with the Albanian border that reached its executive stage and concluded that it could be acceptable if the mission's recommendations were fully implemented.
- 4. It should also be noted that some major infrastructure projects, which are part of Pan European Corridor VIII, have been developed and agreed upon with international entities.
- 5. The Mission recommends giving up the Galicica Ski Centre project completely ... and considering the possibility of developing options for ecotourism that will not adversely affect the natural heritage.
- 6. Given the level of the endangerment of natural wealth, the mission has identified a number of recommendations, some of which should be prioritized and fulfilled over the next two years, in addition to those adopted in 2016, which are yet to be fulfilled. It is recommended that the Committee request the State party to submit a progress report on the implementation of these priority recommendations for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies by 1 February 2018. Should insufficient progress be made in their assessment, the Committee will consider the property situation at its 42nd session in 2018.

In its 2017 Decision, the World Heritage Committee, referring to the Decision of 40 COM 7B.68, adopted on the 40th session in Istanbul, welcomes the steps taken by North Macedonia, such as the preparation of the Property Management Plan and the Proposed Plan for the Integrated Preservation of the Old City Core at the Centre of Ohrid, the Establishment of a Management Board for coordinating natural and cultural heritage activities as a management structure for Pressure and Intervention Control for the property development and the Development of detailed urban plans for each of the 19 complexes, but with diplomatic rhetoric it calls for the state to prepare a *Strategic Environmental Assessment* (SEA) that comprehensively assesses the cumulative impacts of all infrastructure and development plans and other major natural heritage projects based on the recommendations and advice provided by the 2017 mission and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before undertaking further work;

It also requires the State party (in the case the Republic of North Macedonia) to discontinue construction projects on the A3 road and the Galicica ski resort within the property, which may have adverse effects; It also urges it to carry out a comprehensive comparative study of alternative routes for the Pan European Corridor VIII railroad, including those not passing adjacent to the lake shore, and, in particular, avoiding one of the last well-preserved parts of the shoreline on the Albanian-Macedonian border;

The World Heritage Committee encourages North Macedonia and Albania to continue to cooperate within the Process of Preparation of the Cross-Border Ownership Enlargement for Inclusion of the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid, in order to strengthen the protection of the natural wealth around Lake Ohrid.

The Republic of North Macedonia has been required to submit an up-to-date report on the status of property conservation and implementation of the above-mentioned by December 1, 2018, for

examination by the World Heritage Committee on its 43rd session in 2019. Assistance in the context of the pilot project "Towards Strengthening the Management of the Common Transboundary Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region" (Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia) was finalized in June 2018. The project received \$ 2.4 million in funding (EU and national co-financing from Albania) for the improvement of cross-border cooperation and effectiveness management, as well as identification and protection of the region's cultural and natural resources. In February 2018, Albania submitted a nomination file for the expansion of the Ohrid region's natural and cultural heritage to the existing World Heritage Site. 12

Views of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

Omits 43rd session held in Baku, Azerbaijan (30.06.-10.07.2019), the UNESCO World Heritage Protection Committee adopted a Decision to postpone the Decision to put the Ohrid region on the List of World Heritage in Danger until February 2020.Until this time, the Macedonian government and the local self-government in Ohrid, including Struga, should take appropriate measures and actions to remove the obstacles identified in the World Heritage Committee's Report.

The report emphasizes the reasons because "the property is now facing irreversible transformations of the overall relationship between the historic city, archaeological remains, natural setting, and Lake Ohrid", citing "inadequate construction with inadequate urban development and exploitation of the shore, increased pollution, disruption and destruction of the environment and uncontrolled urban development caused by strong pressure from tourism" as the reason for the current situation.¹³

In addition, on the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, a decision was made that the part of Lake Ohrid belonging to Albania to be protected by UNESCO, thus bringing the Ohrid region and Lake Ohrid fully under the protection of this international organization.¹⁴

Conclusions

The Ohrid region has a huge natural and cultural heritage and therefore this region was put on the UNESCO List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1979 and 1980. The Republic of North Macedonia, as a member of UNESCO, is obliged to preserve this World Heritage Site in accordance with the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage signed by the Republic of North Macedonia.

Increased traffic and tourism pressures and inadequate infrastructure projects, including the proposed development of the Galicica Ski Centre and individual and uncoordinated urban developments, endanger the key attributes of the natural and cultural value of the property (such

¹²43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 30 june-10 July 2019,Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, Working documents, WHC/19/43.COM/5A point 106:

¹³https://mk.voanews.com/a/ohrid-unesco/4955952.html, retrieved on 04.07.2019

¹⁴In February2018 the Republic of Albania submitted an Application for nomination of the part of Lake Ohrid located on the territory of Albania to be put on the UNESCO World Heritage List. On the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, in Baku, Azerbaijan, a decision was made to put the part of Lake Ohrid on the territory of Albania under UNESCO protection.

as the overall shape of the monumental urban complex and the lake's region biodiversity) unless urgent measures are taken.

Furthermore, inappropriate wastewater and solid waste treatment can also cause eutrophication and pollution, undermining the oligotrophic quality of lake water, on which its remarkable biodiversity depends.

Because of the above, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee has taken a number of actions to stop this attitude to natural and cultural heritage by sending several advisory missions of representatives from the Joint World Heritage Centre and monitoring by the International Council of Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS / IUCN.

The position of the UNESCO mission is that, if the Republic of North Macedonia together with the local authorities of Ohrid, Struga and Debarca do not take appropriate protective measures and activities to preserve the World Natural and Cultural Heritage by February 2020, then UNESCO will definitely put the Ohrid Region on the List of World Heritage in Danger. In order for Lake Ohrid to be fully protected (on the Macedonian and Albanian side), the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, on the 43rd session held in Baku, Azerbaijan, decided the part of Lake Ohrid that belongs to Albania, to be put under UNESCO protection, thus making Lake Ohrid fully protected by this international organization.

Based on our research question, we can conclude that UNESCO has taken appropriate measures and activities, within its jurisdiction, in the form of recommendations and requirements for the preservation of the Ohrid region's natural and cultural heritage; however, the competent authorities and institutions of our country have not taken adequate measures to overcome the negative consequences concerning the protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage.

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