



Natural and Anthropogenic Impacts on Historical Heritage along the North Bulgarian Black Sea Coast

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SITE DESCRIPTION AND STUDY AIM

- ✦ Bulgaria is rich in the remains of past human settlements and activity. For example, along northern part of the Bulgarian coast, numerous underwater and coastal archaeological sites from different periods have been discovered – Prehistory, Antiquity (ancient Greek, Hellenistic, Roman), Mediaeval (Early Byzantium, Bulgarian).
- ✦ The most significant of them are: Durankulak archaeological complex with the largest Prehistoric necropolis in the world, Antique settlements Caron Limen and Bizone, archeological reserve Yaylata, Antique and Medieval castle at Cape Kaliakra etc.
- ✦ However, today most objects and sites, as part of common European historical and cultural heritage are posed to a variety of potential impacts and treats, both natural and human-induced. This study is focused on implications of natural factors (such as climate change, extreme waves, erosion and shoreline changes) and human contributions (coastal infrastructures, tourism and insufficient management by decision-makers) to coastal and underwater cultural heritage along the north portion of the Bulgarian coast.



YAYLATA

The archaeological reserve “Yaylata” is situated 18 km away from Kavarna town in north-eastern direction. There are many monuments on the territory of the archaeological complex, belonging to different historical epochs - from VI millennium BC until the middle XI century. There is the ruins of the Early Byzantine fortress. The main threats to this site are wave erosion, earthquakes and illegal building and developments.



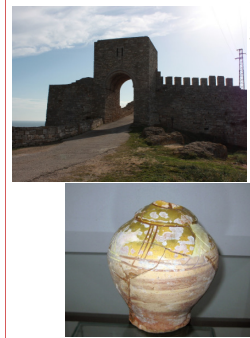
BOLATA

On the northern side of Cape Kaliakra there is a little bay with a port called Bolata. It is famous for the fact that in the surrounding caves are found traces of an ancient settlement dating from the IV c. BC, and the Maltese Cross, who testified for trade relations between the Second Bulgarian Empire, Venice and Genoa.



KALIAKRA

Cape Kaliakra and the architectural reserve on its territory are located 12 km southeast of Kavarna town. The earliest finds were dated to the IV c. BC. There the continuity between the Late Antiquity of Byzantium and the early medieval period of Bulgaria is documented excellently.



DURANKULAK

Durankulak Lake Natural Complex is located 6 km south of the Romanian-Bulgarian border. The Durankulak settlement commenced on a small island, approximately 5200 BC. The first inhabitants were the Hamangia culture, dated from the middle of the 6th millennium to the middle of 5th millennium BC. The main threat to this crucial area is rising sea level and increase of tourist impact.

SHABLA

The Ancient fortified town and port of Careas occupied in ancient time the modern Cape Shabla. Only the northwest part of the fortress is still available on land now, the bigger one being under the sea due to erosion.



CONCLUSIONS

Major natural processes that seriously affect on coastal and maritime heritage environment are direct physical impact by global climate changes, sea level rise and caused increase of waves and storms, acceleration of erosion and coastal landslides. Among human activities that might have direct or indirect adverse impact on cultural heritage the main are coastal and underwater developments and infrastructures. Other categories of anthropogenic impacts are coastal tourism and expansion of settlements. Finally, insufficient decision-making and management of coastal and underwater cultural heritage can also have potential adverse impact.

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