

H@R
2008–2010

HERITAGE AT RISK

**ICOMOS WORLD REPORT 2008–2010
ON MONUMENTS AND SITES IN DANGER**



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

HERITAGE AT RISK

Patrimoine en Péril/Patrimonio en Peligro

ICOMOS WORLD REPORT 2008–2010 ON MONUMENTS AND SITES IN DANGER

ICOMOS rapport mondial 2008–2010 sur des monuments et des sites en péril

ICOMOS informe mundial 2008–2010 sobre monumentos y sitios en peligro

edited by Christoph Machat, Michael Petzet and John Ziesemer



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Front and Back Covers: Cambodia, Temple of Preah Vihear (photo: Michael Petzet)
Inside Front Cover: Pakistan, Upper Indus Valley, Buddha under the Tree of Enlightenment, Rock Art at Risk
(photo: Harald Hauptmann)
Inside Back Cover: Georgia, Tower house in Revaz Khojelani (photo: Christoph Machat)

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Appel à la Sauvegarde de Počitelj

À cause de sa nature particulière et de son état unique mais aussi de l'état de dégradation qu'elle a malheureusement atteint au fil des dernières années, Počitelj a été par deux fois placée sur la liste mondiale de World Monuments Watch des « 100 Sites en danger » (respectivement en 1996/1997 et 1998/99). La décision du Gouvernement Fédéral de Bosnie-Herzégovine certifie de surcroît sa valeur à travers sa décision pour la création du programme de « Protection continue de Počitelj » datant du 24 Novembre 2000, renforçant de ce fait la place unique que Počitelj occupe parmi les monuments et sites historiques de la plus haute importance. Pour cela, sa conservation et protection adéquate devraient figurer parmi nos priorités. À partir de ce moment jusqu'aujourd'hui une série d'activités spécifiques a été implémentée et ce en ayant pour but l'établissement d'une protection adéquate et durable, ainsi que d'une revitalisation et conservation d'un des sites culturels et historiques les plus précieux de Bosnie-Herzégovine et de ses environs. En accord avec les priorités tracées par le projet de « la Revitalisation de l'ancienne ville de Počitelj » et le contexte spécifique d'un pays traversant une difficile période post-confliktuelle, les critères pour la reconstruction de la ville ont été définis.

Malheureusement Počitelj est de nouveau en danger. Par le projet du nouveau tracé de l'autoroute (Vc), cette dernière devrait passer au plus près de l'enceinte de la ville et passer de la rive gauche de la Neretva en atteignant la rive droite grâce à un pont d'une longueur de 1 000 mètres et une hauteur de 100 mètres. La construction du pont au-dessus du large bassin de la rivière Neretva, en aval de Počitelj aurait pour conséquence directe la destruction non seule-

ment physique mais aussi visuelle et écologique du site culturel et historique ainsi que de son paysage environnant.

Au bas de Počitelj, à quelque 2,5 kilomètres, la ville apparaît majestueuse au sein de son paysage authentique. Si la réalisation dudit projet d'autoroute est effectivement implémentée, cette vue serait coupée par la construction d'un haut et long pont moderne. La construction aurait pour de même une conséquence logique du changement total du paysage visuel vu à partir de Počitelj.

Les arguments proposés par les défenseurs d'un tel projet ne sont pas objectifs. Entre autres leur improbable thèse de la possibilité offerte par un tel pont pour une vue d'ensemble de Počitelj. Dû à la vitesse avec laquelle les voitures circulent sur l'autoroute, il est peu probable que les voyageurs aient la possibilité de voir même partiellement une partie du paysage et de ses environs et encore moins du magnifique Počitelj. Admettant que cette thèse soit probable, le plaisir produit par une telle vue serait considérablement amoindri par la destruction qu'un pont de cette envergure aurait engendré par sa construction.

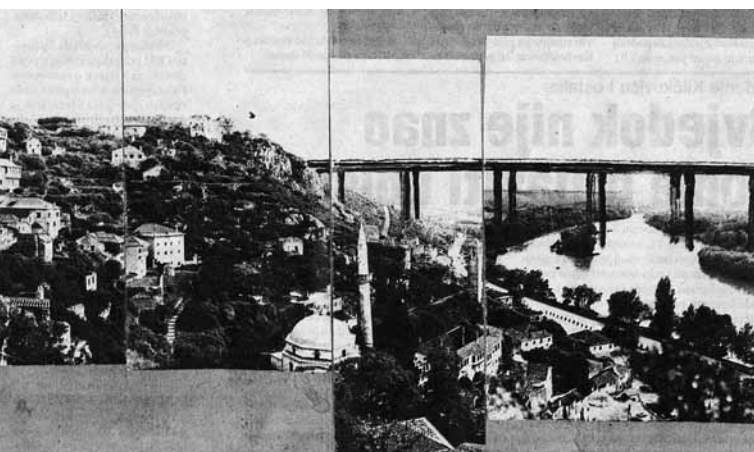
Les experts pour la protection du patrimoine culturel proposent que le tracé de l'autoroute soit déplacé à environ 1 000 mètres en amont de Počitelj. Par ce tracé un site tel que celui de Počitelj pourrait être préservé.

Nous faisons appel aux organisations mondiales et aux experts de la protection du patrimoine culturel de se joindre à nous dans notre lutte pour stopper la dévastation tragique d'une entité historique qui risque de disparaître à tout jamais. Empêchons la construction du monstrueux pont en aval de Počitelj.

Décembre 2008
ICOMOS Bosnie-Herzégovine

View of Počitelj





Photomontage, planned location for the new bridge crossing Neretva river

Appeal to Save Počitelj

The old city of Počitelj, famous for its unique features and exceptional beauty, was placed twice on the World Monuments Watch List “100 Most Endangered Sites” (in 1996/97 and 1998/99). A special decree by the government of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Federation of November 24, 2000, in which the program named “Permanent Protection of Počitelj” was established, attests how significant and valuable Počitelj really is. Therefore, its conservation and appropriate protection should be an imperative. Up to the present day, several important measures have been taken in Počitelj in order to appropriately preserve and protect one of the most valuable cultural and historic sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the project “Revitalisation of the Old City of Počitelj” and taking into consideration the specific post-war conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, several criteria and restoration priorities were established. With the help of the Federal Government of Bosnia

and Herzegovina, a number of significant interventions are being conducted inside the old historic nucleus of Počitelj.

Unfortunately, Počitelj is in danger once again. According to the current blueprint, a new highway (corridor Vc) is planned in close proximity to Počitelj’s old city wall where it would cross the Neretva river from the left to the right bank (the bridge would be 1000 metres long and 100 metres high). The construction of the bridge above the wide river-bed, in a downstream direction from Počitelj, would produce an enormous physical, visual and ecological degradation and devastation of this cultural and historical unity and its authentic surroundings.

Looking at Počitelj from a southwest direction (downstream), its majestic appearance can be seen from a distance of 2.5 km. If that proposed highway project is implemented, this view will be obstructed by the enormous bridge construction. The same effect will be created when looking from Počitelj at its immediate surroundings.

The arguments offered by the advocates of the proposed highway project are not objective. One of the offered arguments, a possibility to look at Počitelj from the bridge while driving, is unfounded. During a fast drive it is quite impossible to enjoy this majestic view. Even if this possibility existed, the benefits gained by the majestic view from the bridge would be insignificant compared to the considerable damage to the valuable cultural heritage that this construction would cause.

Cultural heritage preservation experts have proposed that the highway should cross the Neretva river-bed approximately 1000 metres upstream from Počitelj. This proposed solution would salvage the valuable old city.

We appeal to organisations worldwide and to cultural heritage preservation experts to join us in our efforts to prevent the impending danger to the valuable cultural and historical entity: it is imperative to prevent the construction of the bridge downstream from Počitelj.

December 2008
ICOMOS Bosnia-Herzegovina

