



Réseau des  
Grands Sites  
de France

Pôle international  
francophone des  
sites patrimoniaux

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP “BUILDING TOGETHER THE FUTURE OF HERITAGE SITES IN THE BALKANS”

Vau i Dejës & Shkodra, Albania, March 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**Subject:** Three-and-a-half days exchange workshop about heritage sites and sustainable management in the Balkans, based on case studies and shared experiences.

**Dates:** From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>, march 2023. The workshop will officially end on march 30<sup>th</sup> in Tirana with the participation of Albanian institutions related to heritage and the French Embassy.

**Location:** The plenary sessions will take place in the municipalities of Vau i Dejës and Shkodra. There will be a full day on the fieldwork at Komani site. The closing session will take place during an official event in Tirana.

**Context and goals:** The municipalities of Vau i Dejës and Shkodra are committed to a project to create a protected area in order to enhance the diversity of Komani heritage resources (landscape, archaeology, vernacular heritage, etc.). Based on Komani case study and on the *Grands Sites de France* approach, the workshop intends to feed discussion about integrated management of heritage sites in Albania, and more broadly in the Balkan area. It will also discuss the experience acquired within the *Grands Sites de France* national policy (coordination between preserving heritage value of sites and managing tourist flows, stimulating a socio-economic impact on the area, urban sprawl, etc.).

## Public

- 15 to 20 people
- Professionals and organizations involved in preservation, management and valorisation of Komani, of other heritage sites in the Drin Valley, Albania or the Balkan region.
- Other participants / speakers with relevant experience for the workshop

## Organizers and venue

The seminar is co-organized by the Franco-Albanian archaeological mission of Drin Valley and the Grands Sites de France Network (RGSF), in collaboration with the Grand Site de France Bibracte-Morvan des Sommets, the French Embassy in Albania, and partners of the RGSF's International Francophone Centre of heritage sites.

- Located in the Drin valley, in northern Albania, Komani is at the heart of a research programme, conducted jointly with the sites of Lezha and Sarda, led by the Franco-Albanian archaeological mission. Komani stands out for its large surface area of 1300 ha, of which 150 ha are archaeological remains. It witnesses the presence of a large city and diocese of the Arbër medieval civilization, which disappeared in the 16th century with the Ottoman invasion. Today, the site also presents several industrial hydric structures. Located in a rural area, the economic activities are mainly related to agriculture, fishing, livestock farming, as well as a fast-growing tourism.
- The Grands Sites de France Network (RGSF, [www.grandsitedefrance.com](http://www.grandsitedefrance.com)) is an organisation, bringing together local authorities responsible for both day-to-day operations and long-term evolution of the most remarkable protected landscapes in France (49 affiliated sites, 32 million visitors per year : Concors-Sainte Victoire, Cliffs of Etretat-Albâtre Coast, Solutré-Pouilly Vergisson,...). Since 2010, it manages the International Centre of heritage sites ([www.polepatrimoine.org](http://www.polepatrimoine.org)). The latter organizes trainings on integrated management of heritage sites under the patronage of UNESCO and field workshops. It coordinates an online exchanges network of more than 140 professionals from 36 countries and supports international cooperation projects between sites.

**Working languages:** French & English

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## **PROVISIONAL PROGRAM**

### **DAY 1 – MONDAY, MARCH 27th**

- 18:30 – 19:45 Opening of the seminar and brief introduction of each participant  
*Location: Diocese of Shkodra*

- 20:00 Opening dinner  
*Location: Restaurant Tradita, Shkodra*

### **DAY 2 – TUESDAY, MARCH 28th**

- 8:00-17:00 Field trip to Komani and Sarda, and meeting with the local actors

- Visit of Sarda, then Komani (by car if bad weather)
- Ascent on foot to the archaeological site (allow 1h30 of ascent, by car if bad weather)
- Lunch on site (picnic or restaurant)
- Return by car

- 18:30-19:30 Workshop No. 1: "Shared heritage values and spirit of place at the heart of the territory's project"  
*Location: Church of Komani*

### **DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th**

- 9:30-10:45 Workshop No. 2: "From the site's meaning and value to a management plan - the integrated management of a heritage site" – *Approaches, case studies and exchanges.*

*Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:00 Field trip: visit to the Komani dam

*Lunch Break*

- 13:30-15:15 Workshop No. 3: "Building a sustainable destination" – *Approaches, case studies and exchanges.*

*Break*

- 15:30-16:45 Workshop No. 4: "Territorial management and urban planning - From the site to the great landscape"  
– *Approaches, case studies and exchanges*

*17:00 – 18h45 Seminar's first conclusions*

*- What did the workshop teach us?*

*- What shared vision for the future of Komani and heritage in the Balkans?*

*Location: Church of Komani*

*19:00 - Departure from Komani to Fishtë*

*20:30 - Dinner at Mrizi i Zanave Agroturizëm*

*22:00 – Departure for Tirana, arrival at 23:30 Overnight in Tirana.*

### **DAY 4 – THURSDAY, MARCH 30th**

- Official closing session in Tirana - *Reception in Tirana for the closing session with institutions and partners.*

*Location: National Institute of Cultural Heritage (IKTK, Ministry of Culture), Tirana*