

Towards a sustainable management of cultural heritage in Greek Regions. The role of spatial planning.

1. Introduction

Article 1 of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) defines “cultural heritage” as those works of man and nature which warrant preservation and protection. As such, cultural heritage which deserves to be treated in a manner conducive to its preservation includes monuments of every sort (artefacts, groups of buildings, archaeological and historic sites), know-how bequeathed to mankind by various civilizations past and present, popular traditions and customs as well as natural creations of exceptional beauty (monuments of nature)

Of course, protecting and managing our cultural heritage is not an easy task. Only through interdisciplinary cooperation and the marshalling of all the measures and means at specialists’ disposal can the risk be minimized of aspects of cultural heritage changing over time. It should be pointed out at this point that protecting cultural heritage does not necessarily mean turning monuments and cultural goods into museums or putting them on display. What such protection does involve is preserving, using and promoting them in a manner which will allow future generations to enjoy and benefit from them (Pavlogeorgatos, 2003). This need has led in recent years to a rise in cultural tourism, which the World Tourism Organization reports now accounts for a sizeable proportion of global tourism (Richards, 2001). The sustainable management and use of cultural resources is now promoted as a primary social and economic objective.

In this context, the current paper examines the spatial planning / geographical dimension of cultural heritage in Greece, one of the world’s ancient cradles of civilization. The paper begins with a brief presentation of the institutional framework in place in Greece for protecting cultural heritage before going on to list the country’s monuments, with an emphasis on large scale monuments from every period (archaeological sites, traditional settlements, castles etc.). Finally, having made a number of observations on the spatial distribution of Greece’s cultural-monumental resources, the paper ends by drawing conclusions on the role spatial planning can play in protecting and raising awareness of cultural resources, and proposing guidelines for spatial organization and planning on both the local and national levels.

2. The Greek institutional framework: competent bodies

In Greece, the main bodies responsible for protecting and promoting the nation’s cultural heritage (historical, architectural, industrial etc.) are the ministries of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) and Culture and Tourism (MCT), along with their regional services—the ephorates of, respectively, Classical and Prehistoric Antiquities, Byzantine Antiquities and Modern Monuments. The MCT is responsible for all ancient monuments (mobile and immobile) from every period up to 1830, the year in which the modern Greek state was founded, along with the majority of monuments from after this date. For its part, the MEECC is responsible for the Sites of Outstanding Natural Beauty (SONB), traditional settlements, historic buildings and

other monumental constructions including traditional elements of the built environment such as wells, fountains, cobbled streets and bridges.

In addition to these two ministries, a number of additional organizations are active on a national level in protecting, and managing Greece's cultural heritage, the most significant of which are the country's local and regional authorities, the Greek Technical Chamber, and the General Secretariat of Macedonia and Thrace of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of the Aegean and Island Policy.

The current institutional framework includes the following legislation:

Law 1103/80, which validates the UNESCO International Convention (1970) on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property (Official Gazette 297/A/ 29 December 1980)

Law 2121/93 on Intellectual Property, related rights and cultural issues (Official Gazette 25/A/ 4 March 1993)

Law 2831/2000, which supplements Article 4 of Law 1577/1985 on the General Building Code and other city planning regulations and specifies core regulations relating to traditional settlements and listed buildings (OG140/A/ 13 June 2000)

Law 3028/02 on the Protection of antiquities and cultural heritage in general (OG 153/A/ 28 June 2002)

Law 3348/05 on the Ratification of the Unidroit Convention on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects (OG 144/A/ 23 June 2005)

Law 3525/07 on Cultural Sponsorship (OG 16/A/ 26 January 2007).

The primary statute in force today in this area is Institutional Law 3028/2002, which constitutes the first attempt in a Greek context at an all-embracing, unitary, clear and systematic approach to the safeguarding of cultural heritage. The age and fragmentary nature of the legislation it replaced (L5351/1932) had led to frequent and considerable confusion which had extended into the jurisprudential sphere. The 2002 statute significantly extended the concept of cultural heritage (tangible and intangible cultural assets), defined the protection regime in both spatial and temporal terms and introduced new principles for the safeguarding of Greek culture (the principles of equal treatment, the social dimension, protection enhancement etc.), while also adding a spatial dimension to the nation's monumental / cultural heritage by defining the boundaries of archaeological sites and providing for the on-site conservation of monuments (Karybalis, 2004).

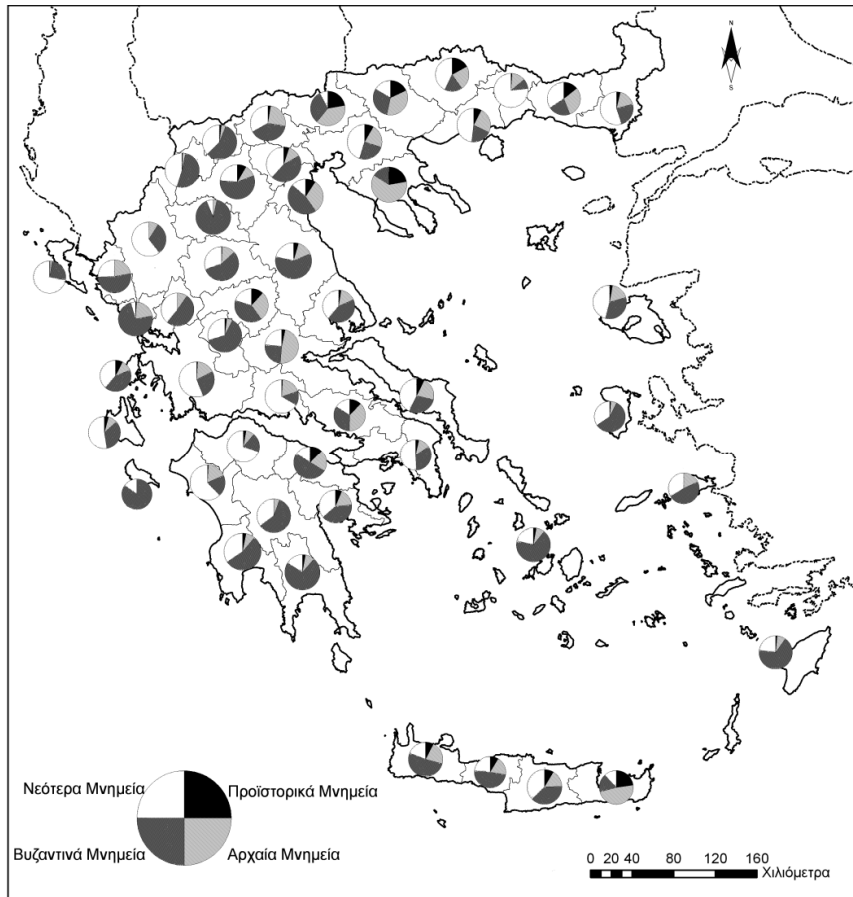
3. Cultural heritage in Greece

The territories of the Greek state were an important cultural cradle, with a rare heritage with its roots in prehistory. This subsection will attempt to list this monumental heritage by period and by prefecture (the most important territorial unit), while referencing selected core categories of monuments from every period, with an emphasis on large-scale cultural heritage sites (for example, archaeological and historic sites)

3.1 The monuments

Greece's cultural monuments can be sorted by age, location, importance, type or other criteria. Given that chronological listings are the most common and hence the most accessible to the academic community, this paper will begin by sorting Greece's

monuments into the different periods in its history: the prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age), classical (Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman), Byzantine (Byzantine, mid-Byzantine and post-Byzantine) and modern (Neohellenic) periods. The types of monument present in each of these periods are presented analytically in Table 1.



*Map 1: Percentile distribution of monuments by historical period and prefecture
(Source: Table 2)*

Pie chart legend: Prehistoric—black; Archaic or Classical—pale grey; Byzantine—dark grey; Modern—white.

Period	Categories of monuments
Prehistoric	Domiciles, Palaces, Fortifications, Administrative buildings, Religious monuments, Funerary monuments, Infrastructure, Commercial and Manufacturing monuments
Classical	Domiciles, Palaces, Fortifications, Administrative buildings, Baths, Religious monuments, Commemorative / Decorative monuments, Funerary monuments, Infrastructure, Sports installations, Theatres and Odeons, Commercial and Manufacturing monuments
Byzantine	Domiciles, Fortifications & Castles, Baths, Religious monuments, Funerary monuments, Infrastructure
Modern	Domiciles, Fortifications, Administrative buildings, Educational and Cultural buildings, Baths, Religious monuments, Commemorative / Decorative monuments, Infrastructure, Sports installations, Theatres and Odeons, Commercial and Manufacturing monuments, Utilities, Cinemas

Table 1: Categories of monuments per era (The categories are based on those used by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism: www.odysseus.culture.gr).

Table 2 presents the spatial distribution of Greece's immobile monuments, listing the number of such monuments by prefecture. It should be noted that many of the monuments included in Table 2 are included in designated archaeological sites from the prehistoric and archaic periods or other designated sites from the Byzantine and modern periods (SONB, traditional settlements etc.). It should be noted that Byzantine monuments generally seem to outnumber those of the modern period because traditional settlements and listed buildings not being included in the latter category (they are covered by MEECC legislation and number in their thousands). However, Table 2 still makes it clear that almost every prefecture in Greece can boast a significant number of monuments from every time period.

A parallel reading of map 1 and table 2, shows that there is a wide spatial distribution of monuments from all time periods in the entire Greek territory. Thus, the long-term and lasting cultural heritage and civilization of Greece is reflected in general, but a more specific analysis, highlights that there are some distinct geographical regions that considerably outweigh from others, as they include the majority of monuments and sites. Central Macedonia (Thessaloniki area), Eastern Central Greece (Attica, Viotia, Evia), Southern Aegean (Cyclades, Dodecanese, Crete) and southern Peloponnesus (Argolis, Peloponnesus, Elia).

Prefecture	Number of monuments			
	Prehistoric	Classical	Byzantine	Modern
Achaia	17	54	122	443
Aitolokarnania	2	36	57	122
Arcadia	-	18	187	112
Argolid	23	61	144	130
Arta	-	19	101	78
Attica	58	211	582	877
Chalkidiki	33	92	23	1
Chania	36	103	247	91
Chios	4	25	238	141
Corfu	3	12	130	375
Corinthia	29	51	120	38
Cyclades	69	215	1750	557
Dodecanese	27	146	1206	405
Drama	20	28	20	51
Elia	2	44	49	157
Evia	32	93	126	188
Evros	7	32	45	103
Evrytania	1	3	34	16
Florina	3	8	106	70
Fokida	2	43	30	150
Fthiotida	7	103	54	50
Grevena	-	2	56	4
Heraklion	49	91	219	215
Imathia	10	24	92	78
Ioannina	-	53	184	364
Karditsa	21	52	72	37
Kastoria	1	5	92	81
Kavala	19	62	51	122
Kefallinia and Ithaki	12	26	97	149
Kilkis	29	50	41	10
Kozani	17	22	116	49
Lakonia	16	53	439	97
Larisa	11	35	148	53
Lasithi	96	204	73	50
Lesvos	22	141	263	364
Levkada	7	11	40	37
Magnesia	23	139	379	345
Messenia	25	68	456	287
Pella	3	31	49	41
Pieria	12	41	61	18
Preveza	3	56	197	12
Rethymnon	38	85	218	106
Rodopi	12	25	18	29
Samos	-	19	51	36
Serres	35	68	58	32
Thesprotia	-	19	45	22
Thessaloniki	65	169	191	352
Trikala	1	23	104	56
Voiotia	24	75	66	32
Xanthi	2	22	16	133
Zakynthos	-	-	72	13
TOTAL	928	3.068	9.335	7.379

Table 2: Spatial distribution of immobile monuments per period and prefecture (Source: based on entries in the Permanent List of Designated Archaeological Sites and Monuments in Greece kept by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism: listedmonuments.culture.gr)

3.2 Designated cultural heritage sites

As the previous subsection (Table 2) makes clear, Greece is home to a large number of immobile monuments from every period. Table 3 below lists the number of designated sites by period. They are listed by prefecture to shed light on their spatial distribution:

Prefecture	Number of prehistoric and classical sites	prefecture	Nr	prefecture	Nr	prefecture	Nr
Achaia	53	Drama	28	Kastoria	5	Pieria	40
Aitol/karnania	33	Elia	43	Kavala	60	Preveza	38
Arcadia	12	Evia	87	Kefallinia	26	Rethymnon	78
Argolid	49	Evros	31	Kilkis	50	Rodopi	25
Arta	16	Evrytania	3	Kozani	22	Samos	19
Attica	191	Florina	8	Lakonia	49	Serres	68
Chalkidiki	89	Fokida	38	Larisa	35	Thesprotia	19
Chania	83	Fthiotida	100	Lasithi	202	Thessaloniki	161
Chios	23	Grevena	-	Lesvos	125	Trikala	21
Corfu	8	Heraklion	88	Levkada	10	Voiotia	73
Corinthia	48	Imathia	24	Magnesia	123	Xanthi	22
Cyclades	215	Ioannina	52	Messenia	63	Zakynthos	-
Dodecanese	121	Karditsa	51	Pella	28	TOTAL	2.856

Table 3: Spatial distribution of designated archaeological sites from the prehistoric and classical eras sorted by prefecture (Source: based on entries in the Permanent List of Designated Archaeological Sites and Monuments in Greece kept by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism: listedmonuments.culture.gr).

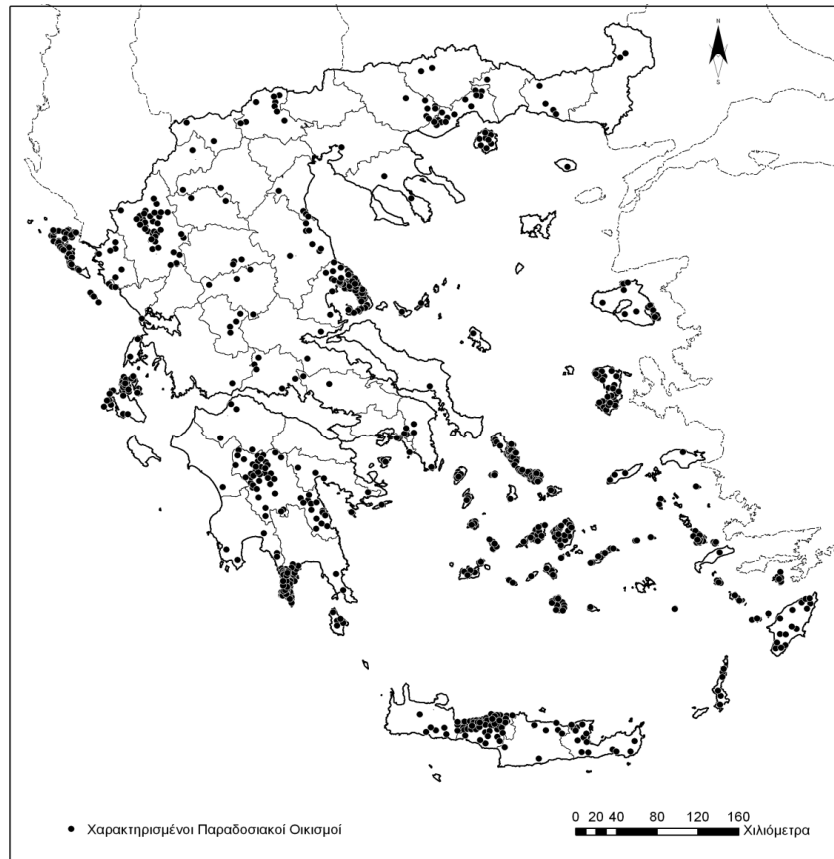
An examination of Table 2 and the designated prehistoric and classical sites presented analytically in Table 3 and allows the following conclusions to be drawn: the concentration of designated archaeological sites (from the periods in question) often mirrors the frequency of the monuments from the periods in question at a prefectural level.

The monuments of the Byzantine and modern periods are presented analytically in Table 4 in relation to the most common categories of monument from those periods (castles, historic sites, traditional settlements and SONB).

In relation to Table 4, it should be noted that: a) the sites are very unevenly distributed across different prefectures; b) the category with the most examples from the Byzantine and modern periods are traditional settlements, which account for roughly half the total number of sites. This accounts for the large differences mentioned above in (a) between the different prefectures.

3.3. World cultural heritage monuments in Greece

In addition to the above remarks, it must be noted that a large number of the designated monuments of all periods, are also included in the World Cultural Heritage list of UNESCO . These monuments in Greece are presented in table 5.



Map 2: Spatial distribution of traditional settlements in Greece (Source: based on the Permanent List of Traditional Settlements and Listed Buildings kept by the MEECC: estia.minenv.gr,)

Prefecture	Castles *	Historical sites *	Traditional settlements	SONB ***
Achaia	4	2	4	7
Aitolokarnania	6	21	1	15
Arcadia	4	2	53	6
Argolid	6	7	4	3
Arta	2	-	-	3
Attica	11	57	22	24
Chalkidiki	4	1	2	8
Chania	7	29	8	28
Chios	5	3	27	7
Corfu	5	1	50	30
Corinthia	3	1	-	13
Cyclades	15	12	164	25
Dodecanese	29	9	56	17
Drama	2	-	2	2
Elia	1	1	1	6
Evia	6	5	2	10
Evros	2	-	3	4
Evrytania	-	2	4	4
Florina	1	2	2	6
Fokida	2	1	5	6
Fthiotida	1	2	2	5
Grevena	1	1	2	3
Heraklion	7	3	7	17
Imathia	1	1	-	3
Ioannina	3	1	36	24
Karditsa	1	1	3	5
Kastoria	1	1	1	7
Kavala	2	3	23	11
Kefallinia and Ithaki	2	12	35	8
Kilkis	1	-	-	1
Kozani	3	-	2	3
Lakonia	14	4	96	9
Larisa	4	2	7	4
Lasithi	4	-	15	25
Lesvos	13	1	14	4
Levkada	2	3	2	7
Magnesia	5	-	66	15
Messenia	16	4	5	9
Pella	1	1	9	5
Pieria	2	1	4	4
Preveza	5	14	4	7
Rethymnon	3	19	68	12
Rodopi	2	-	4	1
Samos	1	1	4	11
Serres	-	-	7	4
Thesprotia	3	-	8	10
Thessaloniki	3	7	1	1
Trikala	2	-	3	4
Voiotia	3	1	2	3
Xanthi	7	-	1	6
Zakynthos	1	2	-	-
TOTAL	229	241	841	452

Table 4: Core categories of Byzantine and Modern monumental heritage sites (*Source: based on entries in the Permanent List of Declared Archaeological Sites and Monuments in Greece: listedmonuments.culture.gr; **Source: based on the list kept by the Ministry for the

*Environment, Energy and Climate Change: ypeka.gr, ***Source: Based on the Filotis database for the Natural Environment of Greece: www.itia.ntua.gr/filotis).*

Year declared	Monument	Year declared	Monument
1986	Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassae	1989	Mystra
1987	Delphi	1990	Delos
1987	Athens Acropolis	1990	Daphne monastery, Osios Loukas Monastery and the Nea Moni, Chios
1988	Mount Athos	1992	Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos
1988	Meteora	1996	Vergina
1988	Early Christian and Byzantine monuments of Thessaloniki	1999	Mycenae and Tiryns
1988	Epidaurus	1999	Historic centre (Chora), the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, the Cave of the Revelations, Patmos
1988	Mediaeval City of Rhodes	2007	Old City of Corfu
1989	Olympia		

Table 5: UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Greece (Source: based on the MEECC: ypeka.gr.)

From all the above tables and maps, it is concluded, that the monumental- cultural character of the different regions of Greece, is directly related to the historical evolution and cultural influences or origins of each region. The above representation, confirms and enhances the fact that Greek regions have a mix of cultural identity. But also provides useful conclusions that haven't been noticed yet. Moreover, it could be noted that the North-Central Greece is characterized primarily by the Byzantine heritage and important archaeological sites. Epirus dominates mainly for its traditional settlements, the Central-Eastern mainland Greece for its classical archaeological sites. Furthermore, West-Central Greece has a more Byzantine character (castles), the western Peloponnesus profile focuses on the monuments of antiquity (Olympia), the southern Peloponnesus on the Byzantine character and traditional settlements, and the Ionian Islands profile comes from the preserved Venetian sites (castles) and other modern monuments. Finally, Crete is dominated by an archaeological wealth of the Byzantine and Venetian monuments and the islands of South Aegean (Cyclades) reflect the mixed cultural nature, as they have numerous valuable monuments of all time periods.

4. Suggestions for spatial planning guidelines designed to foster the protection of cultural heritage in Greece

Given Greece's wealth of monuments and the pressing need to protect and promote them for reasons of historical memory and identity as much as economic development, spatial planning has an important role to play in contributing to the rational and sustainable use of this cultural heritage.

In this context and given the need for such spatial planning to be integrated, it will have to take place on two levels: the national and the regional/local. The subsections that follow will provide guidelines in relation to both these levels.

4.1. National level

The core guidelines for spatial planning that will contribute to the achievement of the above goals on a national level centre on the following four axes:

- prioritizing primary monumental / cultural heritage sites over secondary;
- networking centres of monumental / cultural heritage;
- linking primary monumental / cultural centres with adjacent urban centres;
- ensuring adequate accessibility (transport networks).

Specifically, it is necessary to grade them into primary and secondary centres on the basis of specific criteria including their surface area, condition, influence and symbolic importance (Goodacre and Baldwin, 2002). Applying these criteria, Greece's primary cultural centres would include Delphi, the Parthenon, Olympia, Dion, Dodoni, Vergina and Meteora, which is to say sites of international and global importance from different periods covering the length and breadth of the country. These primary poles of cultural attraction will also have to be enhanced with cutting-edge cultural infrastructure in the form of museums, buildings, cultural centres etc.

The ultimate aims underlying the ranking of Greece's sites in this way are: a) networking primary cultural centres with adjacent secondary centres; and b) networking the primary centres to form a wide-ranging and varied "culture network" of sites working with, rather than against, each other.

Of course, the majority of the sites that could be considered to constitute Greece's primary cultural centres (Delphi, Olympia etc.) are located in the countryside and must be linked with neighbouring urban centres of an adequate size which will be called upon to support them with hotels and other infrastructure. It would thus be desirable for the urban centres in question to have suitable policies on spatial planning and other factors in place which are designed to facilitate urban / cultural tourism, at least, and perform the auxiliary role they are called upon to play.

Finally, logic dictates that the requisite support and transportation infrastructure be in place to allow the proposed network to function on both levels: i.e. between primary poles and secondary poles, and between the primary poles and their adjacent urban centres.

4.2 Local / regional level

Spatial planning is, if anything, even more crucial on the local / regional level where, apart from applying the provisions of Law 3028/02 on primary (A) and secondary (B) protection zones for archaeological sites, it must also provide for the creation of local cultural routes; the linking and induction of monumental / cultural networks in and into the local area; the reassignment of land uses in the vicinity of monuments and the stricter enforcement of these uses; the unification of archaeological sites (on the local/city scale).

Making spatial planning more site-specific as it moves from the national to the local/regional level, we consider it necessary to create local culture routes linking similar or disparate monuments (in terms of their period, morphology etc.) in the same geographical area. It is self-evident that cultural networks of this sort would have to be supported by suitable transportation links or by alternative links such as cycle paths, bridleways or tourist trains.

Remaining on the local level, we also consider it essential that the monumental / cultural networks in a given area should be linked both together, with priority being assigned to adjacent tourist poles of local and/or national attraction, and with areas of natural beauty (e.g. national parks, tended forests, natural landmarks, caves etc.).

In addition, on a more local scale still, spatial design needs to make provisions for the reassignment of land uses in and around immobile monuments (both within the urban fabric and beyond it). It will be remembered that Law 3028/02 seeks to provide for this by enforcing the designation of A (core) and B (marginal) Protection Zones in the vicinity of monuments, and imposing limitations on land use and construction. Difficulties have been noted in the designation of Zones B, since they serve as a buffer zone--due to negative reactions, usually from powerful local figures who, intent on developing these areas, are opposed to all such limitations. This begs the question, of course, to what extent the designation of these two zones—and of Zone B, in particular—has actually been implemented eight years after the law came into force. The answer to this can only be provided by further specialized research.

Finally, turning to spatial planning in the case of numerous archaeological sites and/or modern monuments coinciding in the vicinity of an urban centre, such planning should seek to unify these sites—primarily by means of pedestrian walkways—and to reinforce the unifying axes with a variety of cultural infrastructure.

5. Conclusions

Greece is home to a wealth of cultural resources both tangible and intangible which have to be protected and promoted. The country has thus introduced suitable legal instruments and adopted and complied with various international regulations and conventions. However, the management of our built cultural heritage should not stop there. Rather, it should be incorporated into those levels of spatial planning which can contribute, by means of suitable interventions, to the preservation of the nation's wealth of monuments and ensure the conditions required for its rational use and promotion.

In this context, spatial planning on a national level needs to aim at networking the monuments throughout the country, and to maximizing the financial gain from its national heritage.

At the regional / local level, too, spatial planning needs to link monuments in the area with their hinterland and ensure that the prevailing conditions favour their protection and promotion in tandem with the area's natural heritage and with other natural and income-generating resources. Law 3028/02 has a crucial role to play in this by imposing special spatial planning regulations (land uses etc.) in the vicinity of monuments through the designation of A and B Protection Zones.

This can best be achieved through collaboration between archaeologists and city planners, and between the competent ministries on the one hand and the local authorities and NGOs through which the local communities can express themselves on the other. Such collaboration would ensure that built heritage sites are managed effectively.

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<http://www.wmf.org> (World Monuments Fund)

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<http://www.yppo.gr> (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism)

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