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INTEGRATING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN CLIMATE POLICY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN KOSOVO

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1. Introduction

Climate change increasingly threatens ecosystems, economies, and cultural heritage, particularly in Kosovo, a nation grappling with enduring political and socio-economic challenges. This paper examines the current state of climate and overall policy in Kosovo, with a focus on integrating cultural heritage into climate adaptation and risk management strategies.



Source: adopted from <https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vectors/landmark-landmarks-kosovo-vectors> and the city of Prizren

2. Legal framework regarding the cultural heritage protection in Kosovo

Kosovo’s legal framework integrates the protection of cultural heritage with laws related to environmental issues, climate change, and disaster management. This comprehensive system aims to safeguard heritage sites during times of climate change. The foundation for cultural heritage protection is established in the Constitution and the Law on Cultural Heritage, which are further reinforced by designated protective zones and local regulations. As the effects of climate change become more evident, this legal framework increasingly overlaps with disaster risk reduction laws, environmental protection acts, and the recently enacted Climate Change Law.

HERITAGE-ENVIRONMENT- CLIMATE
RESILIENCE

3. The risk to cultural heritage protection is exacerbated by climate change

The current state of cultural heritage protection in Kosovo is beset by numerous threats and challenges. In a region where peacebuilding efforts are ongoing, the safeguarding of cultural heritage is sometimes perceived as a privilege afforded to certain ethnic's groups. Consequently, initiatives related to cultural heritage are subjected to scrutiny from both domestic and international observers. Kosovo’s UNESCO-listed monuments face significant endangerment, are threatened by both climate changes and insufficient international support, as exclusion from organizations such as UNESCO and ICOMOS inhibits the potential for more robust protection measures.

Moreover, the readiness of of cultural institutions to address emergencies, such as floods, necessitates enhancement. A priority in this regard is to elevate the awareness, knowledge, and skills of stakeholders concerning the risks associated with flossing in Kosovo s cultural heritage sector. The legal framework stipulates that each competent authority plays a role facilitating public awareness regarding disaster risk reduction within the cultural sector. This involvement includes the distribution of warnings, information, and announcements concerning climate hazards and disasters through the various media channels.

4. Conclusion remarks

The primary goal of this research paper is to address the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks and identify critical gaps. Although Kosovo has made notable progress in aligning with EU environmental frameworks, challenges persist, including the absence of localized adaptation tools and funding. In ethnically divided areas like Kosovska Mitrovica, interethnic tensions complicate cultural heritage preservation efforts, leading to disputes over religious and historical sites. Budget constraints and Kosovo's exclusion from organizations as UNESCO, further impede resource access. The study proposes opportunities for integrating heritage protection into climate planning, emphasizing community-driven initiatives and international collaboration. Ultimately, it underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to safeguard Kosovo’s cultural identity against ongoing climate change.

Reference

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