

Socio-Economic study of Sasko Lake area

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Natural hydrological values of Sasko Lake along with settlements and population that gravitates around it, for certain is outstanding locality to perform different researches, especially the ones that are taking into consideration socio-economic aspect.

Considering the fact that the settlements and population are directly or indirectly linked to the Lake, there is an obvious need to prepare a special study which would encompass socio-economic aspects. It is obvious scant in related researches of this area therefore, we performed different actions in doing our study, so we would be able to emphasize values and resources of the Sasko Lake along with socio-economic aspects and in present time as well as in the future.

1. Geographical position and natural characteristics of the Sasko Lake

The Sasko Lake is situated nearby the town Ulcinj, on the right side of the River Bojana, 16 km from the River Mouth to the Adriatic Sea. It is the second crypto depression in Montenegro. Its altitude is 1 m, and the greatest depth, during the low water level is 8 m. That means that the most of the Lake's basin and its water is under the water level of the Adriatic Sea.

The Sasko Lake is lengthened from south-east to north-west and because of its water level irregularity, the same as the Skadar Lake, it has variable dimensions. During the summer period length of the Lake is 3,2 km, width is 1,5 km and the coastal line is 8,6 km long. Water is fulfilling tectonic origin cavity, with rectilinear split line, which is the reason for non-jagged coastal line. Depth in the central part of the Lake is 6,5 m, and in the carbon funnel, depth is 8m, it is situated in the south coast and it is considered to be a cold water well. The Lake surface, during summer period is 3,6 km², and during high spring the water level is 5,3 km². Water amount in the Lake's basin is variable, from 15 up to 17 million m³ and it is changing according to the changes of the water level. The greatest coastal line changes, during the high water level, are occurring to the north-west, this is causing flooding of the Klezansko field (Fusha e Brise), and to the River Bojana, which is in the specific hydrographical connection with the Sasko Lake. The River Bojana is tributary as well as the arm River of the Sasko Lake. During the high water

level, one part of the River Bojana comes into the Lake. When the River Bojana water level is lower, water from the Lake goes to the River. The canal that links River Bojana and the Sasko Lake has double way water flow, which is caused by water level changes.

Coastal part of the Sasko Lake is covered with rich hydro fill vegetation. This vegetation covers all parts of the Lake up to 2 m depth, which means 1/5 of the Lake. March vegetation and warm Lake's water are providing good conditions for reproduction and breeding of different fish types, and several tenths of birds are also breeding on the Lake. The Sasko Lake is well known as ornithology station, because of the fact that during the winter period migratory birds are staying on the Sasko Lake. This Lake, unfortunately, is not visited enough, for the reason that tourists that are staying in Ulcinj, aren't familiar with the Sasko Lake.

The Sasko Lake gets water trough the brook Medjurec, the well Begovo oko, the River Bojana and precipitation. Average precipitation amount per year is 1300 mm. Water goes from the Lake trough the River Bojana and by evaporation. The highest water level on the monthly basis is in February, and the lowest is in August.

Water level changes influence on physical and chemical water features, especially effects water temperature. Considering the low altitude and south position, water of the Sasko Lake, during summer, can warm up to the 28 C and it is very suitable for swimming. During winter period water can get quite cold. Water color is dark-green. Water transparency is 1-2m.

Significant conditions for the Sasko Lake genesis were: spatial correlation of carbon rocks and flish, tectonic motion and river sediment accumulation between the River Bojana and today's Lake. The Lake's basin represents the lowest part of Klezna tectonic ditch (synclinal). The Lake is surrounded, on the north, with Povara and Sasko hill, on the south with Mozurom and the Briska Forest. During long geological history, one part of the tectonic ditch was filled with sea water and this was bay of the Adriatic Sea precursor. When the River Bojana was created and after barrier was raised along with tectonic ditch, the Sasko Lake was created. Due to the income of the river water, during time the Lake has become the fresh-watered. This enabled development of specific flora and fauna. The flora and fauna is geographically and biologically interesting, also it is interesting to the tourists, this makes Sasko Lake and its surroundings very attractive, and for all of this reasons its legal protection is required.



Sasko Lake map

2. The Settlements in the Sasko Lake area

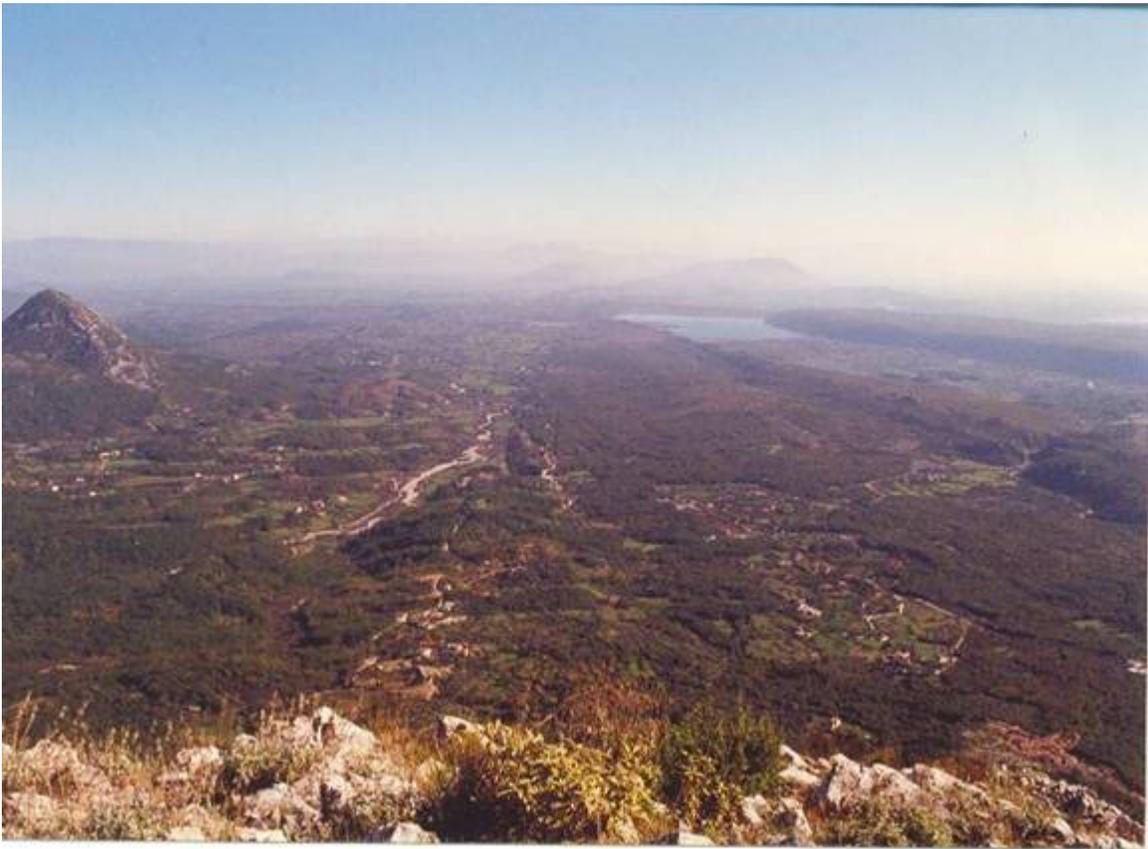
According to the Law on Territorial Organization all settlements in the Sasko Lake area are considered to be villages. Creation, expanding and development of villages in this area, as well as in the all parts of the Municipality Ulcinj, are closely linked to natural-geographical features at one side, and to the socio-historical and economic circumstances on the other side. Villages are small, of low altitude and rich land resources.

In the outline of the Sasko Lake area, we have chosen 6 settlements, according to criterion of population activities in these settlements, which are directly or indirectly linked to the Lake.

Chosen settlements are: the Šas, the Ambula, the Fraskanjel, the Saint Djordje, the Forest Briska and the Donja Klezna.

According to gravitation zones, these settlements belong to two zones: four settlements belong to gravitating zone of Vladimir (Sas, Ambula, Fraskanjel and D. Klezna), and two settlements belong to Ulcinj (Saint Djordje and the Forest Briska).

Also it is important to highlight that two of them (the Fraskanjel and the Saint Djordje) have the special privilege, actually because of the fact that they belong to the Sasko Lake area and they are directly linked to the River Bojana. Because of the favorable geographical position, they are different comparing to the others because of the fact that they are using the River Bojana water resource as well they benefit from fishing on the river.



The Sasko Lake area

3. Population

Migration, structure and other components referring to population on this area are similar to the other settlements in the Municipality Ulcinj. Characteristic of the development in this area, until 1971, was high rate of the population growth, which impacted the higher rate of the total number of the citizens, than small social and spatial mobility, high percent of younger population, farmers and illiterate population, low percent of economically active population, especially women, high number of members in the households, ect.

Special characteristics of the population in this area are: high level of rural households (100%), all settlements are villages, and the national structure is homogeneous (97,61% are Albanian nationality). Current demographic characteristics on this area are consequence of the poor economic development). Rate of the population growth increased from 1948. until 1971, and from that year, population number is decreasing, as a result of migration, this is shown in the last population census, from 2003. (see Table 1).

Table No 1.

Population according settlements (1948-2003)

Settlement	P o p u l a t i o n						
	1948	1953	1961	1971	1981	1991	2003
Year							
1.Sas	207	226	249	227	329	348	268
2.Ambula	108	135	172	196	168	256	31
3.Fraskanjel	119	136	189	222	152	191	76
4.Saint Djordje	157	181	234	275	309	349	86
5.Briska Gora	134	141	165	121	83	67	58
6.Donja Klezna	254	291	347	408	294	260	151
Total:	979	1110	1356	1449	1335	1471	670

Source: Population census in Montenegro 1948-2003; prepared by authors.

Population in this area, consisted of 670 citizens in the year 2003, participated the total number of citizens in the Municipality Ulcinj with 3,3%.

Decrease of the total number of citizens in this area, from the last population census in Montenegro held on 1991, was higher than half or more precisely it was 55.46% and it was not only result of migrations but the methodology of recording inhabitants in a foreign country, during the population census, as well.

The smallest number of citizens has the Ambula (31) and the greatest number of inhabitants has the Šas (268), and in the Table 1, you may see that only two settlements have more than 100 citizens. Without a doubt the main settlement is and it will be the Šas. The Šas, as a successor of mediaeval town Šas, in some way has priority over the other settlements.

4. Households

One of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the development in these settlements is organization of the family life, size and structure of the households. Along with absolute and relative increasing of the number of the households, as a common occurrence is registered increasing of the average number of the household's members in the range from 1948 until 1971 (in the average from 7,36 in the year 1948 until 6,9 in the year 1971). Latter on there were visible differences in increasing of the number of the household with constant decreasing of household size (4,14 in the year 1991 to 2,09 in the year 2003). Average household size at the Municipality level is 3,23 per household (2003), as you may see in the Table 2 and Table 3.

Influence of demographic and economic factors impacted one mode of the development. There are visible differences, in respect of the changes in the number, average size, the structure and the number of members of the households comparing the rural and the urban part (Ulcinj as a Municipality center). There is no doubt that in the village settlements the size and the number of the households' members is higher than the average in the municipality (and its center).

Table No 2

Households by settlements (1948-2003)

Settlement	H o u s e h o l d						
	1948	1953	1961	1971	1981	1991	2003
1.Šas	18	20	21	30	32	50	76
2.Ambula	17	16	19	25	36	75	48
3.Fraskanjel	18	20	21	30	32	50	37

4.Saint Djordje	29	34	37	44	42	96	82
5.Briska Gora	28	27	25	20	16	14	17
6.Donja Klezna	43	44	49	70	57	68	60
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Total:	133	161	172	219	215	353	320

Source: Population census of Montenegro (1948-2003); prepared by authors

This area participates with 320 households (5,09%) in the total number of households in the Municipality Ulcinj (6285). Between two Population Censuses (1991-2003) considering regional and social aspects, the number of households increased and it was higher in the urban part (Ulcinj) for 311 households, and in the village zone the total number of the households was increased for 24, which was a prove of migrations and low rate of population growth.

Transformation of the population structure, seen as socio-economic and structural changes, than transition from farmers to citizens not involved in agriculture, expanding of the urban life style, higher rate of educated persons and improved living standard, had powerful influence on this area and whole Municipality Ulcinj. These changes had influenced size and transformation of the structure of the household.

Considering the household social structure, great changes have been detected in this area. Number of non-agricultural and mixed households was increased and it was evident since 1971, and at the same time it was found decrease of absolute number of the agricultural households. Along with these changes, non-agricultural process exists. That can be easily seen trough agricultural toward non-agricultural and daily migration of labor toward Ulcinj and out of the country.

Table No 3.

Average household size by settlements (1948-2003)

Settlement	Average size						
	1948	1953	1961	1971	1981	1991	2003
Year							
1.Šas	11.5	11.3	11.8	7.56	10.2	6.96	3.52
2.Ambula	6.35	8.43	9.05	7.84	4.66	3.41	0.6
3.Fraskanjel	6.61	6.8	9.0	7.4	4.75	3.82	2.05

4.Sveti Djordje	5.41	5.32	6.32	6.25	7.35	3.63	1.04
5.Briska Gora	4.78	5.22	6.6	6.05	5.18	4.78	3.41
6.Donja Klezna	5.90	6.61	7.08	5.82	5.15	3.82	2.51
Total:	7.36	6.20	7.88	6.09	6.20	4.16	2.09

Source: Population census 1948-2003; prepared by authors

5. Population migration

As in the other settlements surrounding the Municipality Ulcinj, within the Sasko Lake area, as well citizens' migrations have become social phenomena. It was not a recent phenomenon, but it has been intensified since 1960. Main reasons of migrations emerging from these settlements are economical, but other reasons, that might be only individual, are not excluded. The migration phenomenon encompasses all of the settlements except for the Forest Briska, which has its particularities considering these aspects.

Emigration is the dominant mode of population migrations, and for the reason of emigrations absolute majority of population is in the foreign countries (USA, Western Europe, Australia). Table 4 shows process of emigration by each settlement in the Sasko Lake area.

Table No 4

Population emigration by each settlement (2003)

Settlement	pop. In country		pop. In abroad		total
1. Šas	268	69.43%	118	30.56%	386
2. Ambula	31	15.38%	165	84.61%	196
3. Fraskanjel	76	34.54%	144	65.45%	220
4.Sveti Djordje	86	18.77%	372	81.22%	458
5. Briska Gora	58	94.91%	3	5.08%	61
6. Donja Klezna	151	55.17%	117	44.82%	268
Total:	670	42.16%	919	57.83%	1589

Source: data from population register from 2003; prepared by authors

The Ambula and the Saint Djordje have the highest rate of migrations comparing to all settlements. According to the Table 4, in the Ambula only 15,38% of citizens live in this settlement/municipality/country, and 84,61% of the total number of citizens live abroad; in the Saint Djordje live 18,77% citizens, and abroad 81,22% (Table No 4). This data show that these two settlements are facing depopulation. Migration process made of small village called the Bottom Ambula (near to the Fraskanjel) only a geographical name, because no one lives there any more.

Table shows that only one settlement is not encompassed with migrations. That is the Forest Briska, the smallest settlement considering the number of the citizens. It is the only settlement with heterogeneous national structure. Dominant are citizens of Slav origin: Montenegrins 39,65%, Serbs 25,86% (total 65,51%), and 34,48% of Albanians participate in total number of citizens. In all other settlements, Albanians are only members of population. The Forest Briska had a population migration on the local level, and this referred to migrations within the Municipality Ulcinj and not abroad, as it was the case with other settlements in this area.

919 citizens from this area represent 14,81% of total population that emigrated in the Municipality Ulcinj (6202), and this also shows high level of emigration in this area.

From above mentioned data, it is possible to conclude that from the total number of citizens 42,16% are in the country and 57,83% are abroad. If this rate of migration stays, depopulation will be usual but very inconvenient occurrence for this area.

6. Economic activities

Agriculture, especially cattle breeding, husbandry, vegetable and fruit growing, and partly fishing on the Lake and the River Bojana are primary economic activities of population in this area.

Earlier, production of wooden coal, white wash, carpets, and national costumes made of wool and cotton, and especially fishing on the Lake and the River Bojana, was very common.

Population in this area used primitive equipment, with cattle dragging, which was the reason of poor agricultural income. It hasn't been possible to cover basic needs of a household, and potential over-production for the reason of bad infrastructure could not be put on the markets.

After the Second World War, especially after 1960, with the beginning of tourism development in the Municipality Ulcinj, social conditions started to improve, mostly through settlement electrification, road building, use of mechanization in agriculture, use of mineral fertilizers...

Along with that, agricultural products were disposed on the market in Ulcinj as well as on the markets in the other parts of former Yugoslavia, especially in seaside region. In this period dominant is production of early vegetable, melons, subtropical fruits, and products from vineyards.

Considering the fact that this area is rich of fish, this product was present not only on the markets in Ulcinj and Bar, but on wider market. Fish richness was interesting for national and international institutions and potential investors, in intensive fish and fish youth production (eel, sea perch, carp, trout, salmon). However, because of well known happening and decay of the former Yugoslavia, no concrete action was conducted.

7. Recent use of the Lake

After the Second World War, Agricultural Cooperative from the village Vladimir used the Sasko Lake. Fishing was seasonal, and it was done with small equipment, and mostly using the standing nets. Fishing depended on different factors such are fish migration, spawning, or fish retaining in some parts of the Lake. Fishing was adjusted to ecological features of particular fish specie that was crucial for presence of fish in the coastal areas. Fishing was conducted without difficulties, during the process of gathering of fish because of the spawning or feeding or wintering. This way of fishing was typical for salmon, bleak and carps.

Fishing was extensive, without any control and respect of any regulations on fishing, and all of that had unfavorable influence on over-fishing of economically important fish species. There were no professional fishermen in this area. Citizens of near settlements (the Sas, the Ambula, the Fraskanjel, the Saint Djordje, the Forest Briska and the Donja Klezna) were fishing, and that was additional income for a household. "Agropogon", and latter "Agro-Ulcinj" was managing the Sasko Lake, and after them Economy department of the Sate Armed Forces managed the Lake, but today the Sasko Lake is completely left out from any type of care from local or republic government.

8. Economic effects of use of water from the Sasko Lake

Issue of the use of water from the Sasko Laker should be considered within the frame of economical activities. Considering the fact that fresh water fishing belongs to agriculture by its form, all economic activities that were conducted were agricultural activities as well. Instruments of primary allotment that were applied in agriculture were applied in fishing too. Actions undertaken and which were designed for wider economic activities, and using credits that were required for improvement and rational management are also applied in the area of fresh water fishing.

It very difficult to talk about effects of fishing on open water, because it depends from different factors such are water productivity, quality of fish structure, possibilities of fishing, ect. But, it is necessary to have rational approach when it comes to use of this type of objects, its protection, management, and use of existing potentials for this kind of objectives, this completely justifies necessity of the Lake management by one organization or a bigger system.

a) Use of the Lagoon on the Sasko Lake

The fishpond lagoon is a small water space, fenced with special gates (bank and other bafflers), so fishes that are inside of the fence can not migrate, and with melioration measures, technologically, growing of fish can be sustained.

For the fishponds is required to attain interjection of water, from which the fishpond is a parted of, also water flowing, fish migration, and all with the aim to effectively use natural conditions of this objects and fishing.

According to the way water is closing, the lagoon fish ponds could be divided into three categories:

1. Open lagoons, whose fence is made of prestor,
2. Semi closed fishponds whose edges are mostly closed with banks or special hydro technical equipments
3. Closed fish ponds which are fenced with banks and have water flow connection.

Adequate and economically reasonable surface of lagoon should be at least 300 ha of a water surface. If it is possible, one side of the fish pond should be set toward dominant winds. Side of fish pond set toward dominant winds is the most important in fish pond, because of the fact that this is a side from which fish is coming, and from this side fish are coming during migration from the see, and in the same time this side serves for water circulation. According to the above mentioned classification the Sasko Lake, considering the location and other conditions, belongs to the semi-closed lagoon fish ponds. During low water level, water from the Lake trough the canal goes to the River Bojana. In a spring periods is the most intensive migration from the sea to the Lake.

Favorable characteristics of Sasko Lake are sub-lacrustic wells (Begovo oko), that would serve, for particular fish species that will be breed in a lagoon, as a shelter during cold period, taking into consideration that all of this migratory fish species are sensitive to water temperature changes. Stoking of lagoon fish pond will be done partly in the natural way, during flood interval (spring time), when bevy of eel's, sea perch's larva and other larva of the sea fishes are present in great number. Or by stoking with youth, which will be fished on certain localities close to the mouth of the River Bojana and the Port Milena

near to the town Ulcinj, which are very rich with youth of eels and cipols. For this kind of-stoking, 2000 pieces per ha is desirable to put in. Stoking should be done during spring and at the beginning of a summer. As it is known, two kind of stoking are used in lagoon fish pond. First one is so called “natural way”, when fish youth in the natural way comes into fishpond, during autumn and spring migration of youth cipols, and that depends on cipol species. Although, regular spring migration into the fishpond is quite more intensive. The second way is stoking by a man, which encompasses fishing of a fish youth and their transition to a fishpond. Considering the fact, that in first way a man can not control amount of youth, it is not possible to calculate later yield. But, on the findings of the Venevijan lagoons, it could be estimated that natural stoking of lagoon with youth fish is not enough.

It will be necessary to establish protection regime on the Lake of the lagoon fish-pond, and especially of fishing in the lagoon (sea fish). It is mainly related to the closed season of cipol (*Mugil chepalus*) and intensive fishing of cyprinid fish.

With this system of use of the Sasko Lake, fish production will be increased for several times comparing to the present time. It is necessary to stress an option to increase level of fishing of a high quality fish (cipol (*Mugil chepalus*), eel) up to 40-50 t per year, and its great economic importance, considering the location of the Lake which in near important tourist centers on the Adriatic Sea.

b) Artificial fish breeding

In the Sasko Lake area are present the great potentials for building of fish ponds, and artificial fish breeding. There are several modes of fish breeding. Which mode will be chosen depends mostly on natural conditions on the area where a which fish pond will be built, and it depends as well of needs of a breeder.

9. Sport fishing

All mentioned open waters in this area, are very suitable for organization of sport fishing. Investments needed are only for equipment.

10. The Sasko Lake protection

Contemporary trends turned to protection and improvements of environment are in the same time actions pointed to conservation and improvement of a quality of life.

Hydrographical localities as well as the natural and artificial Lakes are priceless treasure of every region and every country.

Conservation of authentic environment at the same time means conservation of the Lake. In order to implement appropriate actions directed to nature protection, which are characterized through complex ecological interactions, it is necessary to consider certain principles that are guaranty for achieving of the long term goals.

Contemporary nature protection has to be based on conception of active protection, which has more and more supporters, and should be applied complexly and without compromises in order to achieve right results. Considering active nature protection basic principles we will point out its importance for conserving of clean water, originality of the coastal areas conserving and correct valorization of the Lake in favor of different needs of modern society.

Nature protection, protected and planned, should maximally serve to basic human needs. This means that the Lake protection can not be aim for itself. The Lake protection does not mean to create such limn-logical objects which will remind on pictures in stolen frames. The Lake protection must be conducted in such a way to provide it most rational use, which will not generate bad consequences on development of the ecosystem and will not put in favor one water user over another.

Conception points of active nature protection stress out necessity of detailed and excellent scientific knowing of nature. It is not one man and one institution work; this includes teams of experts of different profiles and association with their scientific and researching centers. Acquired knowledge should be confirmed, and every new experience is priceless referring to the issue of conserving clean water, as well as in respect of the issues referring to flora and fauna, meant for present time and the future.

There is no doubt that illegal fishing in the Sasko Lake, makes invaluable loss to fish fauna. These unwanted occurrences that are followed by huge material losses are caused with inefficiency and absence of guardian service on the Lake.

Protection of fishing waters and existence of guard service is stipulated by the law, and regulations on labor stipulate obligations and duties of this service.

Fishing localities should be under guardian service. In order to have better service, guardians must be informed and supplied with proper equipment. Guardian of fishing localities must be familiar with these regulations and the Law on fishing in the freshwater of the Republic of Montenegro, as well all under laws and regulations. As it is a case with other branches such are in the area of cattle breeding and aqua-culture, fishing in the open waters, it should be ensured conditions for normal development.

11. Potentials of development of this area

Considering natural resources and cultural heritage of this area, with involvement of local citizens and modern determination on the principles of sustainable development there are realistic potentials for development of this area.

Development of this area should be directed to:

- Organic agriculture
- Medical herbs
- Handwork diligence
- Sustainable tourism (eco tourism, cultural tourism, picnic tourism...)
- Bird watching
- Promotion of traditional meals, national costumes, folklore...

For complete valorization of existing resource of this area is necessary to:

1. Prepare Sustainable development strategy of Sasko Lake area
2. Zone the terrain
3. Establish agency and fund for local development, which will be holder of this work
4. Proclaim Sasko Lake as protected area (Park of nature)
5. Prepare projects
6. Define scope of needed means
7. Define resource source
8. Define dynamism for project implementation
9. Rank projects according to importance for this area
10. Project implementation with involvement of all stake holders (government, buisnes sector, expert and scientific instirutions, civile sector, popultion, donors...)

12. The Settlements infrastructure

As all others settlements in the Municipality Ulcinj, these settlement also have regulated infrastructure. All roads are asphalted; settlements have electricity, water supply and telephone line. The Forest Briska and the Saint Djordje are situated near to the town Ulcinj, and other settlements are situated further, on 30 km from Ulcinj, as the Fraskanjel.

Roads were asphalted almost 30 years ago, and they don't correspond to modern needs. Roads should be renovated and widened according to the modern standards, as it is done in other regions. It will be very useful to build 2300 m long road, from Saint Djordje, along with the River Bojana to the Fraskanjel. Only in that case these two settlements would be connected.

Very important for this area would be to clean and to put in function the canal (1800 m long), which connects the Lake and the River Bojana. This canal is out of function for the last several years. Fish migration, from the Lake to the River Bojana and in opposite direction, will be possible in the case the canal opens. This will provide increase of a structure of a quality fish in the Lake during the whole year.

13. Cultural-historical and values of the town Shas for tourism

The Ancient town Shas is situated in the area of the Sasko Lake and it belongs to the monuments of the first class. According to the great number of legends, Shas had as many churches as a year has days. But the truth is that were found only eight remains of the ancient churches. Two of them are monumental, although damaged.

Church St. Jovan (Shen Gjoni) was built in the end of XIII century. The church was 22 m long and 7 m wide. Church was built in the Roman style and by its function it was cathedral. St. Jovan church was situated inside of fortification.

Another church is the Church of St. Marija (Shen Mrise). This church was built in XIV century, it was 16,6 m long and 7,1 m wide. The church was built in the Gothic style, and it was situated out side of the fortification, on the north-east. Considering the fact that it was built with different building stile, scientists believe that it was a monastery.

According to the historical literature, until not such a long time ago, it was believed that the Sas was built in VI century b.c.e. But according to the archeological research performed at 1985, and founded materials it was proved that settlement belonged to prehistoric period. The first walls are Cyclops's walls from Illyrian period, and that means this settlement is ancient settlement in this part of the Adriatic area.

According to the historical sources it could be stated that the Sas was the most developed in the mediaeval centuries, although it was several time occupied by different conquerors. In the year 1183 the Sas was occupied by the Stefan Nemanja, in the 1242 it was occupied by Mongols and in the end in of the year 1571 in was occupied and completely destroyed by Turkish army. From that time the Sas belongs to the category of "dead towns".

The Sas was a center of Anamalia region, when the ancient road Ulcinium-Svacium-Scodra was passing trough. As some others mediaeval towns Skadar, Ulcinj, Dristi, Sas as well had minted coins, with inscription: "Sovacii civitas".

Referring to the church range the Sas was bioscopy, and the latter on because of the different social circumstances, the Sas lost this privilege. F.Djustinijani, M.Bici, P.Bogdani, Th.Ipen, P.Mijović and others provided interesting information on Sas. Researches undertaken in October and November in 1985 were the first ones. Founded material encompassed thirty coins-one of them was gold coin, three were silver and

others were bronze. It was confirmed that the three currencies were minted in Bar and Kotor, and two of them were minted in Skadar, as well in Ulcinj. Those currencies, minted in XV century, had special values. On those coins, the old town was presented in renaissance style, with buildings on three floors with colonnades and the tower. In founded materials, great significance had things made of clay, rings, pottery, arms, and glass objects.

These materials were placed in the storehouse of the Museum in Ulcinj since its discovering, and it had never been presented to the public. This is not acceptable, and those exhibits should be conserved, systematized and exhibited. It would make sense to place this materials into the church (St Jovan or St Marija), since they present authentic materials from this region. This action requires detailed proposals for church renovation, and existing objects should be put into function, similar to the practice in the world, where cultural monuments are valorized.

Although the Sas represents the ancient settlement, with the great historical, architectural and cultural values, although it belongs to the monuments of the first class category, and it is not protected by the Law.

This monument represents outstanding tourist attraction, for the reason of its unique monumental wholeness, after the Old town Ulcinj, so the Sas has particular importance for this area as well as for the wider region. In the frame of the sustainable tourism offer from the Sasko Lake, the Old town Sas should have special place.



Photo of the Ancient Town Shas

14. Conclusion

Considering all above mentioned, the Sasko Lake area, with surrounding settlements and the River Bojana, as a part of intact natural inheritance, with rich and interesting cultural and historical heritage and its specifics, could achieve complete affirmation and

valorization intended for well being of the local citizens, than the Municipality Ulcinj, which has tourists oriented economy, also the Republic of Montenegro and the wider region as well, all through sustainable development and sustainable tourism.

In this manner shall be created environment for appropriate valorization of the resources and potentials of the Sasko Lake, including promotion of the local products and services. This would also include involvement of experts for valorization of this area.

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