

A holistic conservation and development approach for Gaziantep Rumkale archaeological site

Gaziantep
Rumkale
archaeological
site

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Abstract

Purpose – The aim of this paper is to determine the scope and content for a holistic conservation and development strategies in the case of Gaziantep Rumkale. This approach seeks an answer to the question of “How can Rumkale archaeological heritage be preserved with their original values and passed on to future generations?”

Design/methodology/approach – The materials of the paper are based on field research and written and visual resource. The paper has been handled with a four-step method setup. The first stage is to examine the spatial and functional background of Rumkale and its immediate surroundings based on the historical development process. The second stage is to evaluate the upper- and lower-scale planning experiences of the heritage site. The third stage of the research methodology is strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis. The fourth stage is the creation of cultural heritage conservation-development strategies that define strategies for the protection and development of archaeological heritage in the context of sustainability.

Findings – The paper emphasizes the development of a holistic perspective that theoretically deals with the archaeological heritage sites of Rumkale together with the surrounding rural areas. In this context, the paper suggests ecological, spatial, socio-cultural, economic and institutional protection development strategies for the Rumkale archaeological site together with the surrounding rural areas for their delivery to future generations.

Originality/value – Although the area has an important cultural heritage value for different religions and cultures, it has not been subject to sufficient scientific research. The paper develops a holistic approach by considering Rumkale and its surroundings together.

Keywords Cultural heritage, Conservation, Sustainability, Gaziantep, Rumkale

Paper type Research paper

1. Introduction

Archaeological heritage sites provide major tangible and intangible records of human history. They also serve as common memory resources for world cultural heritage, as well as contributing to our understanding of ancient cultures. They provide an important resource area for society memory, which contributes to the quality of social, cultural and economic life by expanding public consciousness of an area’s social and cultural history. Archaeological heritage sites also assist the marketing of local identity in national and international economies. From this standpoint, planning studies focus on heritage related to established conservation-development strategies to sustain and transfer the archaeological heritage to succeeding generations.

Generation of sustainable conservation and development paradigms for the past few decades caused significant changes in conventional management approaches for cultural heritage sites including archaeological areas (Du and Shi, 2019). Heritage management policies are expected to consider environmental impacts, social integration and participation of local communities having cultural and economic bonds with that site and development of



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an appropriate economic plan to achieve its sustainability during decision-making process (Boccardi, 2006; Powter and Ross, 2005). The changing environmental conditions such as globalization, decreasing economic resources for protection in parallel with the economic crisis in the world, increasing social conflicts and tensions, urbanization pressure parallel to the increasing population and climate change are the most barriers in the sustainability of cultural heritage areas (Boccardi and Duvelle, 2013).

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) published a document entitled *Heritage at Risk* (ICOMOS, 2000). The second issue of the report was published in 2001, then published regularly every 2 years and then every 3 years. The reports attracted the attention of the public for the heritage sites at risk, and identified threats range from natural causes to those related to development, including pollution and mass tourism. In Turkey's 2011–2013 report for *Heritage at Risk*, the impacts of dam constructions on the archaeological sites and historic cultural traces were noted (ICOMOS, 2014). Cultural assets in Turkey are not only threatened by various human-induced factors but also by catastrophic natural events. The 2016–2018 report emphasized that the prevalence and effects of natural disasters in Turkey constitute a serious problem (ICOMOS, 2020).

In recent decades, the need for a planning methodology for the conservation and management of heritage sites has arisen in response to the rapidly changing world in which we now operate. The extent and pace of change, whether manifest in the physical destruction of sites, in the varied uses of sites or in our ways of thinking about and valuing the past – pose an enormous challenge for those involved in preserving and interpreting the archaeological record. In this context, we see that management efforts are becoming increasingly important towards the protection and sustainability of cultural heritage (Demas, 2002; Mason and Avrami, 2002; Jones, 2007).

This paper attempts to define holistic conservation-development strategies for the sustainability of an archaeological heritage site at Rumkale sub-region, Gaziantep, which reveals historical and cultural layers dating back approximately 3000 years. These strategies are defined in the context of a cultural heritage management based on the strategic planning approach. In this framework, it aims to determine how *in situ* conservation development and to examine presentational opportunities concerning the integration of an archaeological and heritage site within cultural–economic rural life, as well as examining the issue of the transfer to succeeding generations of educational activities and scientific research. It also aims to redefine the local identity values in national and international platforms by planning and designing studies based on spatial and functional analyses in the context of a strategic planning approach.

1.1 Cultural heritage

The new assumptions that emerged in the definition of cultural heritage in the historical process have also affected the approaches to the conservation and development of heritage sites. The basic criteria that come to the fore in the selection and protection of cultural property values in traditional conservation approaches; these are the work-oriented values such as scientific, historical, artistic and aesthetic of the monument or area that need to be protected. In addition to these values, the importance of “living heritage” and “value-based approaches” has been emphasized since the 2000s (Mason and Avrami, 2002; Poullos, 2010). The work-oriented conservation approach, in which social and environmental aspects are ignored, has been handled as a technical issue discussed in a limited environment. Similarly, in models developed for the protection of flora–fauna and living environments, approaches that isolate the protected areas from human effects have been developed.

The concept of rural heritage, on the other hand, is widely accepted to include both the architectural heritage in the rural areas and the wider geographical, historical and cultural

background. Therefore, traditional rural areas with a long history are an important object of cultural geography research and an important part of the World Heritage system (Fowler, 2003).

Rural heritage can be defined as the unity of spatial characteristic and functional identity values, which are shaped by the mutual interaction of the built environment and the natural environment in the context of social-cultural and economic relations (Özcan, 2017). The beginning of the discussions on the preservation of rural heritage can be dated to the European Architectural Regulation of 1975 and the conclusions of the Symposium Conservation of Small Historic Cities (ICOMOS, 1975). With the Granada Document prepared by the Council of Europe (CoE) in 1977, rural architecture and rural environment were evaluated as heritage resources that should be protected at least as much as urban heritage (CoE, 1977). In 1985, within the scope of the Convention for the Protection of the European Architectural Heritage, the necessity of social-cultural and economic development policies was emphasized for the protection of historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technically important structures and works in rural areas as well as urban areas (CoE, 1985). In the 1989 Recommendation of the Council of Europe on the Protection and Enhancement of the Rural Architectural Heritage, it is stated that in the transformation process of agricultural production and social structure, traditional rural architectural heritage, which is one of the main components of European culture memory, is endangered (CoE, 1989).

With the 2000s, it is possible to say that the rural heritage phenomenon has moved to a different dimension in the context of the Traditional Architectural Heritage Regulation. Within the scope of the regulation, it can be said that the rural heritage phenomenon is defined as a cultural landscape resource by matching the cultural-regional relations and the natural-traditional methods used by the societies for sheltering with the local architectural elements. As a matter of fact, landscape resources are culturally, ecologically and socially important on the basis of public interest, and the necessity to protect them in this respect was included in the European Landscape Convention in 2000 (CoE, 2000).

The Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was signed in 2003; it draws attention to the necessity of sustaining and transferring the knowledge, traditions and experience that produce objects that are the sources of material culture, keeping them alive and transferring them from generation to generation, by reviving them with the accompaniment of learning, transmission and reproduction processes (UNESCO, 2003). This emphasis should be understood as transferring the knowledge of the rural heritage settlements to the next generations by reviving and teaching the knowledge about the place-specific oral and visual cultural values that raise awareness. Therefore, all these definitions reveal that the rural heritage phenomenon is accepted as a heritage asset that needs to be protected and shaped in the presence of a series of geographical, historical, economic, social, ethnological, architectural and artistic content.

Ideas regarding the integrity of the rural heritage have been developed from the concept of cultural landscape. The concept of cultural landscape takes its source from cultural geography. Sauer defined cultural landscape as “fashioned from a natural landscape by a culture group” and stated, “Culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape the result” in *The Morphology of Landscape* (Sauer, 1925). According to this definition by Sauer, cultural landscape is seen as a field and a result product. Since the 1970s, this view has changed over time with different discussions. The idea that the cultural landscape is a process has begun to be accepted, especially with the subjective evaluations of the landscape losing the importance of objective evaluation techniques in the evaluation of the landscape (Taylor *et al.*, 2015). The concept was first used by the World Heritage Committee in 1987, in this new period when it started to be discussed on the international platform (Aplin, 2007).

Cultural landscape and rural heritage go beyond the concept of geography: it became a prevalent study “in the field of cultural heritage protection after becoming a special category of World Heritage in 1992”. The term “cultural landscape” embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. In the Operational Guide to the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the cultural landscape is defined as “the combined works of nature and man”. It is examined in three categories: (1) landscape designed and created intentionally by man, (2) organically evolved landscape and (3) associative cultural landscape (WHC, 2019).

Nowadays, it has been possible to handle approaches for the holistic protection of cultural heritage sites within the framework of “sustainable development” (Nayci, 2014a, p. 10). The main factors in the increasing importance of sustainable development principles in the fields of cultural heritage; globalization can be defined as changing environmental conditions such as decreasing economic resources for protection in parallel with economic crises in the world, increasing social conflicts and tensions, urbanization pressure and climate change (Boccardi and Duvelle, 2013). The importance of sustainable conservation and development in the management of cultural heritage sites has been frequently emphasized by international organizations in recent years. The subject of the 2010 meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee is “World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development” (UNESCO, 2010). The 2011 meeting emphasized the role of cultural and natural heritage in social integration, peace and dialogue (UNESCO, 2012). In the ICOMOS Paris Declaration, it was stated that historical textures should be evaluated as a means of balanced urban growth and socio-economic revival (ICOMOS, 2011).

Approaches to the preservation and development of cultural heritage sites, including archaeological sites today, basically cover the environmental, socio-cultural and economic infrastructure. Environmental aspect includes the natural structure of the area and the management of this structure in terms of protection and development. However, another dimension is the continuity of social and cultural diversity. In this context, social integration, reinforcing the sense of belonging and being involved in the process, comes to the fore. The economic dimension includes a more complex series of decision-making processes such as contributing to development and creating resources for the protection of the cultural and social values of the area (Boccardi, 2006, p. 4; Powter and Ross, 2005, p. 5). However, in this study, the importance of institutional and spatial infrastructure is also emphasized. Institutional infrastructure includes ensuring coordination in site management, and spatial infrastructure includes the historical or current man-made environment. For a successful conservation and management approach to cultural assets, sustainable development principles should be evaluated within the framework of these criteria. In the light of these evaluations, there is a need for sustainable approaches that will integrate local values with universal principles in the management approaches to be developed for rural and archaeological heritage areas, some examples of which are the living parts of traditional values of hundreds of years.

1.1.1 Cultural heritage and sustainability. Sustainable development can be defined as the right of human beings to develop in harmony with nature and environment by considering the resources of future generations. With this approach, which is based on the balance of protection and use, it is aimed to develop a balanced and responsible life relationship between present and future generations. This acceptance has also affected the protection of natural and cultural heritage sites. The discussions on sustainable development, which initially focussed on environmental values, later developed on three main goals: social context and economic development (Boccardi, 2006; Powter and Ross, 2005; Nurse, 2006). With its tangible and intangible values, it is seen that the definition of cultural assets includes social values, economic production resources and environmental management, which are the three components of sustainable development.

After the 1990s, the positive contributions of the relationship between man and nature based on symbiosis, the shaping of the natural environment and the diversity of the landscape have started to be appreciated. However, in environmental management, cultural experiences and traditional role of information systems have increased (Taylor and Lennon, 2011). On the other hand, an important emphasis emerging in cultural asset management approaches is the integration of human rights principles with protection policies (Jokilehto, 2012; Disko *et al.*, 2014).

It is aimed to ensure social justice for people living in protected areas, the continuity of cultural identities and diversity and the right of people to give an idea about their future and to determine their own destiny and to become economically self-sufficient (Nurse, 2006; Hawkes, 2001). Economic crises experienced on a global scale caused the resources allocated to protection to become increasingly limited. This crisis has also made it necessary to handle cultural assets, including archaeological sites, with economically sustainable models. The aim is the search for a sustainable model that can create the necessary economic resources for conservation efforts and transfer these gains back to the preservation of cultural assets. One of these model searches is the public-private sector collaboration involving private sector entrepreneurs instead of the protection approach generally provided by public resources (Palumbo, 2006; Thompson, 2007).

In the expert meeting organized by UNESCO in Paraty in 2010, attention is drawn to the relationship between conservation and sustainable development. Participants at the Paraty meeting discussed sustainable development, sustainable development as a condition for successful conservation, the impact of world heritage on sustainable development and promoting Sustainable Development in the field of conservation. Their result pointed out that an appropriate world heritage protection and management will contribute to sustainable development (UNESCO, 2010). In 2015, the role of culture and heritage in sustainable development was recognized by the United Nations (UN) in the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cultural heritage appears most prominently in Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities as Target 11.4 “to protect the world’s cultural and natural heritage”. In addition, there are indirect references in other goals such as SDG 4 on Education, SDG8 on Work and Economic Growth and SDG 12 on Consumption and Production (UN, 2015).

The international conventions that Turkey has become a party to, especially since the 1970s, have been influential in the development of legislation on the protection of natural and cultural heritage. In fact, the beginning of the development of cultural heritage conservation awareness in Turkey dates to the middle of the 19th century. His first studies, which started with museology, were followed by excavations carried out by foreign archaeologists. However, this interest in the ancient period could not be reflected in the urban space. Established in the 1950s, the Real Estate Antiquities and Monuments Conservation Board has undertaken the task of determining the conservation principles and forms of intervention. In the 1980s, the Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets came into force, and the Ministry of Culture was authorized for the protection of heritage sites (Özdemir, 2005; Kejanlı *et al.*, 2007).

It is seen that participation and environmental impact assessment, which are handled in the context of sustainability, started to take place in the conservation legislation after the 1990s. The Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage and related regulations, which entered into force since the mid-1980s and underwent various changes in the following periods, are emphasized with their environmental, social and economic dimensions for the protection of heritage sites. In other words, the protection of heritage sites has not only natural and cultural assets, but also aims to positively affect the region’s natural environmental resources, create employment and added value on its social and economic infrastructure.

With the legal regulations made in recent years, public–private investment partnerships or private initiatives are encouraged to create alternative resources as well as public resources for the protection of cultural assets. The Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets and the Laws on Incentives for Cultural Investments and Initiatives, as well as the legal regulations for local administrations to create a local budget to take a more active role in the protection and planning of cultural assets, are remarkable. On the other hand, the research, protection, planning studies, expropriation and maintenance, repair and operation costs of archaeological sites are provided by the central budget of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Considering the number of archaeological sites in our country, this situation is not economically sustainable. For this reason, it is aimed to create alternative economic resources by encouraging public–private partnerships for archaeological and rural heritage areas, as well as regulations on general cultural assets.

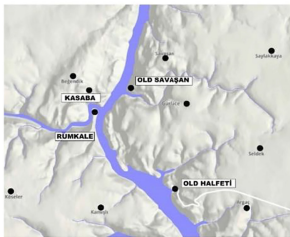
The aim of this study is to determine the scope and content of sustainable cultural heritage conservation-development strategies for Gaziantep Rumkale archaeological site and rural heritage sites in its immediate surroundings. The paper seeks an answer to the question of how rural heritage areas, together with the Rumkale archaeological site, can be preserved with their original character and can be passed on to future generations. It is thought that the paper will contribute to the planning debates on the sustainable conservation of archaeological and rural heritage sites in the example of Rumkale as well as offering an alternative perspective to spatial–functional development and socio-economic development pursuits.

2. Scope and methodology

The scope of this paper is the Rumkale archaeological site located within the borders of Gaziantep province. Rumkale, on the western bank of the Euphrates River, is established on a steep rock at the point where the Merzimen Stream joins the Euphrates. Due to the Birecik Dam in the region, the water level increased over time; as a result, Rumkale turned into a peninsula. Due to the topographic thresholds, there is no road connection left to the area except the pathway from the south direction. Transportation to Rumkale is provided by the waterway from Gaziantep's Yavuzeli District Kasaba District and the (old) Halfeti district, a part of Şanlıurfa, which is also under the dam waters (Plate 1).

In the process of Rumkale, Real Estate Antiquities and High Council in 1975 numbered 8,747, it was decided that it was a “work to be preserved” and “necessary measures should be taken in terms of its safety”. Adana Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Regional Board, in the process numbered 2003/5340, updated the protection border and sitemap for Rumkale and decided to expand I and III degree archaeological site boundary. Site boundaries of Rumkale were rearranged with the decision numbered 2010/292 of Gaziantep Regional Board for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage; with the decision number

Plate 1.
Gaziantep-Rumkale
archaeological site and
its surroundings



Source(s): Prepared by the authors, 2020

2011/456, I and III degree archaeological site boundaries have been expanded and took its present shape.

On the other hand, Rumkale is within the administrative border of different provinces and districts due to its geographical location and natural thresholds, so it is under the jurisdiction of different institutions. In other words, the conservation problem includes not only the Rumkale archaeological site, but also a much larger area. This area also includes rural heritage areas that have been used as settlement areas in the historical process. This complex problem structure has been influential in the selection of the field as the subject of study. For this reason, conservation and development strategies should be handled in a holistic manner, not only towards the Rumkale archaeological site, but also including the old rural settlements named Halfeti, Savaşan and Kasaba.

The methodology of the paper consists of four stages that are developed based on the strategic spatial planning approach. In the first stage, the spatial and functional background of Rumkale and its immediate surroundings are examined based on the historical development process. This analysis is considered important in terms of defining the spatial and functional priorities of Rumkale in the context of its cultural accumulation and economic potentials. The second stage of the research method is to examine the planning experiences in the field. It is thought that this examination will contribute to the solution of institutional and managerial problems arising from the planning-implementation process. The third one is strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis based on the analysis made. SWOT is one of the analysis techniques used in the strategic planning process. SWOT analysis assesses internal and external factors, as well as current and future potential. Strengths and Weakness are internal factors, and Opportunities and Threats are external factors. Identifying core strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats lead to fact-based analysis, new perspectives and ideas. SWOT analysis is the evaluation of today's spatial and functional use problems of Rumkale in terms of strengths and weaknesses in terms of archaeological, historical and natural values, opportunities and threats, potentials and development possibilities. This assessment is important in terms of defining future spatial and functional use decisions and the possible effects of technical infrastructure requirements on the archaeological heritage. The final stage of the method design is the development of holistic conservation and development strategies for the Rumkale archaeological site and rural settlements in its impact area. These strategies are defined under five main headings in the context of sustainability and location specificity. The first of these is for the protection and development of the spatial and functional infrastructure for Rumkale and its immediate surroundings. The second is protection-development proposals in the context of the environment. The third is suggestions for the development of socio-cultural infrastructure together with the rural character. The fourth is suggestions for the economic infrastructure for alternative support-resource searches. The last one is suggestions for improving the institutional infrastructure for the area under the jurisdiction of different management units. These titles should be seen as a road map that offers solutions for the protection and development of the area.

3. Findings of the study

3.1 Historical background

The foundation of Rumkale, which is an abandoned castle settlement on a high hill, is on the west side of the Euphrates River today. It is based on the Salmanasar period during King of Assyria III in 855 BC (Honigemann, 1988). Salmanasar establishes another settlement named Helen across the Merzimen Stream, north of the area where the castle is located. This area corresponds to the settlement named Kasaba today. The castle, which has an area of approximately 2.4 ha, has come to the fore with its character of defence, religious and

administrative centre in the historical process. The city remained under the rule of Hittite, Assyrian, Med, Persian, Macedonian, Seleucid and Parthians, respectively, in its historical development. Rumkale, which was in the Orshoene State during the Roman Empire, was one of the important cities of the period (İşiltan, 1988). From the beginning until the end of the 12th century, City stands out as one of the special representation areas in the eastern Christian tradition. As a matter of fact, the construction of St. Nerses Church and Barşavma Monastery, which are in the castle today, coincides with this period. In the development of Rumkale, which is also known as Kal'at al Rum or Kal'a Rhomayta in different sources, 13th century Yakubils who lived here played an important role. Known for its wealth, II Ignace built a large Church and many works in Rumkale and later determined it as the patriarchate centre (Honigemann, 1988).

Rumkale was established as a border post during the Mamluk period, and its name was started to be known as Ka'at al Muslimin. The city, which joined the Ottoman rule at the beginning of 16th century, was administratively annexed to the Aleppo State. Evliya Çelebi, who came to Rumkale in the 17th century, said that there are lots of gardens and fruits; he describes that there was a mosque, inn, bathhouse and a small bazaar in the castle (Bakırcı, 2002). Rumkale was an important logistics centre on the Euphrates during the Ottoman period. It was in an important position for its proximity to Birecik Shipyard and river transportation to Basra via the Euphrates. An important part of the materials required for the construction of the ships built in Basra and Birecik was provided through Rumkale. In addition, the city was the storage of military supplies sent to the Persian Gulf (Yelken, 2018) (see (see Plate 2)).

Marshal Von Moltke, who came to Anatolia at the beginning of the Ottoman-German relations, states that Rumkale, where he stopped in 1837, was abandoned and that there were only 14 houses in the castle. In this period, it can be thought that because of increased security in Anatolia and the desire to be close to the agricultural areas caused the castle to lose its importance and to be abandoned over time. As a matter of fact, the majority of those who left Rumkale settled in the area known as the old Halfeti, which has fertile lands on both sides of the river, about 5 km south of the castle. However, Kasaba to the north of the castle and

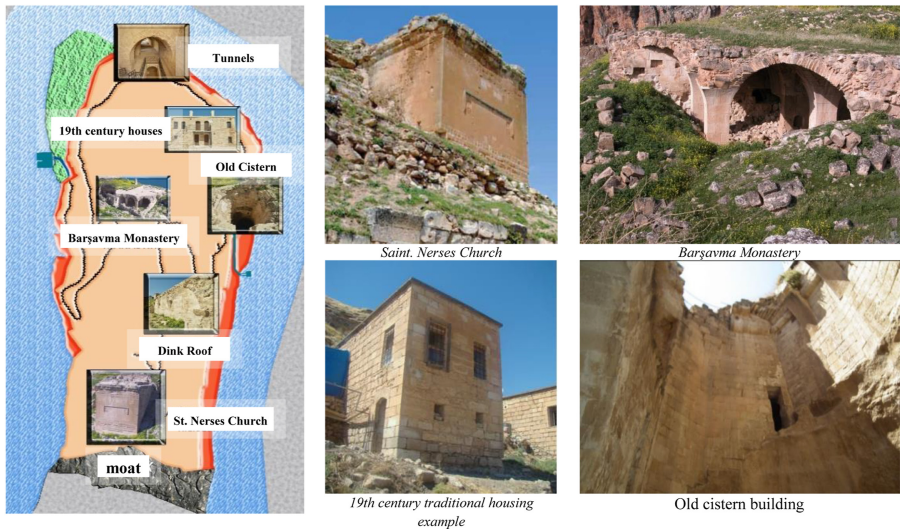


Plate 2.
Examples of
monumental and civil
architecture in
Rumkale

Source(s): Prepared by the authors, 2020

Savaşan, formerly known as Bilesun, to the east have emerged as new settlements. As a matter of fact, the name Rumkale, which was used in the last years of the Ottoman Empire, was used to include the old Halfeti region (Yağmur, 2020).

While Halfeti was a district centre until 1926, it later remained a sub-district of Birecik, and in 1954, it was transformed into a district centre and connected to the province of Urfa. Halfeti creates a centre of attraction with its fertile agricultural fields and gardens on both sides of the Euphrates River. Over time, the majority of the population in the castle settled in Halfeti and reached a lively city structure. The town settlement, which was named Helen in the Assyrian period, was to be moved to a more hilly point in the north of its current location due to the fragments that broke off from the high hills in the north. However, with the water retention and the rise of the water level of the Birecik Dam, the construction of which was started in 1993 and completed in the 2000s, a part of Savaşan and Halfeti along with the agricultural areas and gardens were also submerged (Plate 3). The last houses in Rumkale, which had no road connection due to the rise of the water, were also abandoned. The resident population in Halfeti has moved to the region known as Karaotlak. For this reason, the Karaotlak region is defined as New Halfeti and the submerged city region as Old Halfeti. The old Savaşan settlement has become the most important stopover point after Rumkale, due to the half-sunken minaret of its submerged mosque and its visual value. Archaeological excavations in Rumkale are quite new and work on the restoration of the architectural heritage in the castle continues.

3.2 Planning and conservation experiences

The subject of the preservation process of Rumkale as a cultural heritage begins with the decision of the Real Estate Antiquities and High Council in 1975, numbered 8,747. In the transaction, there is a decision that Rumkale is a “work to be protected” and that “necessary measures should be taken in terms of its safety”.

The first plan decision regarding Rumkale is included in the 1/25.000 scaled Sub-Region Development Plan of the Birecik Dam, which was prepared by the GAP Regional



General view of the old Halfeti settlement



General view of the old Halfeti settlement



General view of the Rumkale view before dam construction



General view of the old Kasaba settlement

Source(s): Modified from Metropolitan Municipality Works

Development Administration and approved on 31.05.1999. Within the scope of this plan, it was emphasized that Rumkale is an area with high tourism potential. Until 2010, there is no plan prepared for Rumkale and its surroundings (Figure 1).

Adana Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Regional Board, in 2003, to update the protection border and sitemap for Rumkale decided to expand I and III degree archaeological site boundary. The GAP Region Tourism Master Plan, which includes the provinces of Adiyaman, Batman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Şanlıurfa and Şırnak, is the first comprehensive plan made in the region. Planning work started in 2010 and was completed in late 2011. While the pier is proposed on the opposite shore of Rumkale in the plan, it is seen that daily facilities and parking areas are planned on the opposite side of Merzimen Stream, in the area where the old town settlement is located. On the other hand, the commercial uses and the presence of scaffolding in the Savaşan region are also remarkable.

The site boundaries of Rumkale were rearranged by the Gaziantep Regional Board for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage in 2010; in 2011, I and III degree archaeological site boundaries have been widened. The construction of the conservation plan for Rumkale and its immediate surroundings started in 2012 and was completed in 2013. This plan, which was commissioned by the Gaziantep Special Provincial Administration, was approved by the Gaziantep Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board and has been put into practice. In the development plan for protection, the castle, which is a first-degree site, was defined as an archeopark area by a complete building ban. It can be said that with the conservation plan, it is aimed to protect the natural and architectural values in the whole of Rumkale and to bring it into cultural tourism.

For Rumkale, a spatial decision was not developed in the Gaziantep provincial environmental plan, which entered practice in 2017, but it was stated that the area would be defined in lower-scale zoning plans. As a matter of fact, in the master development plan that entered into force in 2018, I and III degree archaeological sites have been preserved, and a tourism and trade area has been proposed in Kasaba District. The coastline of the town that meets the Euphrates River is planned as a recreation area. The transportation connection of this area from Yavuzeli district was expressed strongly. A special project area was determined on the coast of Yavuzeli in the north of Rumkale, and the decision was made to evaluate and use the water surface here. However, in this plan, Rumkale and its immediate surroundings, which are in different provincial administrative borders, could not be handled in a holistic manner. The plan could only make decisions for the regions within the Gaziantep provincial border. The exclusion of areas that interact with Rumkale, such as Savaşan and

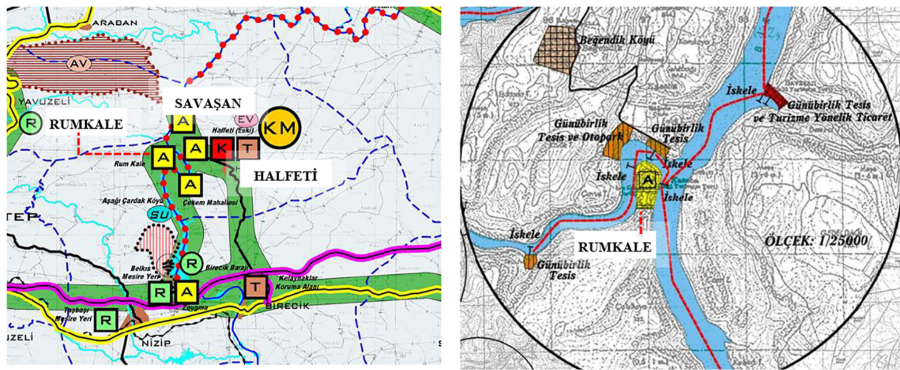


Figure 1.
1999 tourism master
plan and birecik dam
sub-regional
development plan

Source(s): From to GAP Regional Development Administration Archive

Halfeti, are outside the scope of the plan, which is the biggest artificial obstacle in front of a holistic approach. When the subject is handled in this framework, it is seen that Rumkale's spatial and functional uses for tourism are emphasized in the development plans, and functional areas for the service sector are designed, especially for trade and tourism. Although the plan defines the basic land use patterns for the area, it is insufficient in developing criteria for the design and implementation of these areas. Beyond that, its most important critical aspect is that it is not contextualized regarding close environment relations.

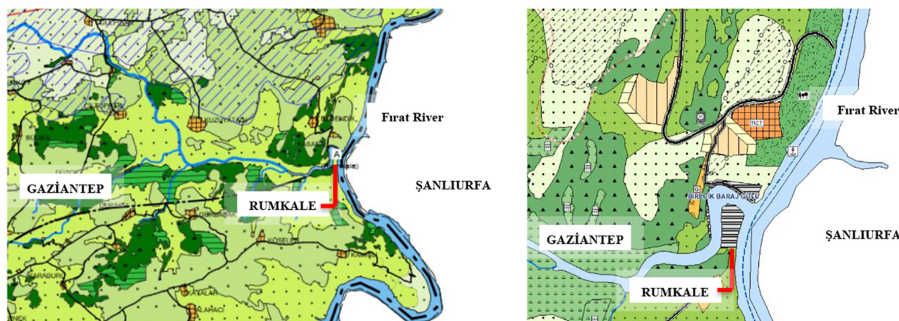
On the other hand, within the scope of this plan, as in the development plan for conservation purposes, besides the activities of pistachio and olive cultivation, local production forms such as *Karagiül* (black rose), which grows only in Halfeti region in the world and has its own scent, and socio-cultural strategies for the revival of annual and periodic activities have not been considered. The adoption of a conservation approach that includes functional changes in a purely spatial context should be considered as an important deficiency in making the values of intangible cultural heritage sustainable and transferring them to future generations. Therefore, it becomes important to develop protection and development strategies with a holistic perspective regarding the region. These strategies should provide a comprehensive perspective not only from spatial decisions, but also from socio-cultural infrastructure to natural structure, from the establishment of the institutional structure to the development of the economic infrastructure (see Figure 2).

3.3 SWOT analyses

Within the scope of the paper, SWOT analyses are discussed in the context of sustainable conservation development. In this framework, the analyses are made within the framework of ecological, spatial, socio-cultural, economic and institutional infrastructure, which are accepted as the dimensions of sustainable conservation development (Table 1).

3.4 Conservation and development strategies

It is seen that Rumkale's spatial and functional development process and the accumulation of planning experiences are considered in the context of the relations of the castle with its immediate surroundings, and it is important to develop strategies for the sustainable protection and development of the historical, natural and archaeological heritage. Therefore, Rumkale expresses a comprehensive and holistic perspective on the protection and development of cultural heritage, planning, design, implementation and inspection processes. In this framework, Rumkale conservation-development strategies have been defined in detail



Source(s): From to Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Archive

Figure 2.
Rumkale and its
surroundings in 1/
100.000 scale
environmental plan
and 1/25.000 scale
master
development plan

	Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
ECOLOGICAL	Increasing water presence thanks to the dam lake Presence and diversity of agricultural production areas Endemic plant diversity Numerous canyon assets	High risk of landslides High risk of erosion Submersion of fertile lands	Increasing awareness of environmental protection thanks to nature tourism Variety of products with high added value	Risk of degradation of natural heritage Increasing pollution of the dam lake Damage to the rural landscape
SPATIAL	Natural and cultural heritage diversity Preserving the original values of historical buildings Regional open-green space and recreation opportunities Cultural richness and diversity Maintaining local rural life Gastronomy and rich food culture	Difficulty in transportation and accessibility Lack of service-accommodation infrastructure Lack of activity space Lack of visitor centre	Developing water-way transport facilities Monumental preservation of civil architectural character Destination centre opportunity for the ancient city of Zeugma	Risk of deterioration of rural character Building additions contrary to the original texture in Halfeti, Savaşan and Kasaba neighbourhoods Building heights that disrupt the silhouette
SOCIAL and CULTURAL	Cultural richness and diversity Maintaining local rural life Gastronomy and rich food culture	Decreased local population due to migration Lack of urban social technical infrastructure Accessibility to services Lack of awareness of protection	Contribution of tourism opportunities to local development Increasing employment opportunities	Risk of loss of intangible heritage Risk of destruction of local social fabric due to migration
ECONOMICAL	Ecological, historical, cultural and religious tourism opportunities The existence of rural production areas Possibilities to develop and diversify aquaculture	Lack of qualified workforce/ personnel Decreased agricultural land	Investment desire of the public sector Increasing number of domestic and foreign visitors Funds available at national and international level	Economic deficiencies Reluctance of private sector investors The negative effects of transnational instability on the regional economy
INSTITUTIONAL	The region has been declared as a protected area by the conservation board The desire of local governments to protect and develop tourism-oriented	Lack of coordination between institutions Authority confusion-competition among institutions Lack of a holistic site management plan for the region	Expansion of the jurisdiction with the Metropolitan Municipality Law	Partial intervention attempts of different administrative units

Table 1.
Integrated SWOT
analysis for Rumkale

in five titles as ecological, economic, spatial, social–cultural and institutional strategies based on the principle of sustainability.

3.4.1 Strategies for improving ecological infrastructure. The topographical structure of the region, vegetation and water resources should be based on the effective use of methods and tools for the protection of the unique natural pattern shaped by the protection-usage balance. In this context, possible environmental impacts should be measured by means of carrying capacity/number of visitors and accessibility–accessibility impact analyses, and an Ecological Development Strategy based on the protection of rural landscape values should be established as well as defining the built environment–natural environment ratio in a way to refer to the cultural identity related to the historical past. In this respect, in the context of the harmony between the built environment and the natural environment, the necessity of protecting natural habitats-ecosystems consisting of endemic plant and animal assets should not be overlooked. Pistachio and olive trees in the area and its immediate surroundings are special product areas and should be protected and developed. The existing vegetation characteristic should be considered in the arrangement of new vegetation development areas.

Another important element in terms of ecology is the protection of water availability. The dam lake contributed to the change of the climatological characteristics of the region. This element also creates an attraction for recreational use areas. This attraction should be supported by activities at local–national and international levels, considering the protection–use balance and development principle. Access to Rumkale and the surrounding areas is provided by waterway. Therefore, at this point, it is important to encourage the use of environmentally friendly transportation vehicles. On the other hand, environmental impact studies should be carried out for the projects and applications to be carried out in the region and its immediate surroundings, and the results should be considered.

3.4.2 Strategies for improving economic infrastructure. In addition to its cultural heritage, the region has a wide range of economic opportunities with water resources and agricultural product pattern. In this context, it will protect the historical and cultural importance and value of the area in Rumkale and its vicinity and at the same time contribute to the economy.

Developing sustainable tourism opportunities becomes important. For this, an activity and service infrastructure for tourism should be established. In the development of service activities, the evaluation of the natural and cultural values of the area in the context of protection and development should be taken as a basis. A functional analysis should be made for accommodation, service, recreation areas, creation and development of these activities. In this context, Halfeti stands out with its transportation superiority and historical architectural heritage in the development of visitor welcoming, accommodation and eating and drinking places.

It is important that traditional handicrafts and production be included in the process by preserving the rural landscape character and settlement texture in the surrounding area and to take part in agro-tourism and cultural tourism. The activities to be carried out for tourism should be in a way to meet the needs at the best level without damaging the area, considering whether the visitors are disabled, elderly, local or foreign.

3.4.3 Strategies for improving spatial infrastructure. For the sustainable protection of Rumkale and its immediate surroundings, Rumkale and its immediate surroundings should be evaluated together with Savaşan, Kasaba and Halfeti for integrated protection. In this context, integrated protection of the functional equipment and spatial pattern of these areas should be taken as a basis in the context of unique identities. In this context, a Spatial Planning Strategy should be established in the close vicinity of Rumkale, which addresses the social–cultural and economic equipment and technical infrastructure requirements in terms of sustainability principle and carrying capacity. In the context of this strategy, it is thought that it is important to define the functional area first. The old Halfeti region draws attention as

the main region that connects the area due to its positional advantage. For this reason, it is important to develop the accommodation and services sector of the old Halfeti. Here, the historical texture and the presence and traditional texture of the old Halfeti houses provide opportunities for the development of the functional structure. In addition to these opportunities, the processing of local products such as olives, soap, peanuts and local products such as olive, soap and pistachio in Halfeti and meeting the demands of the place that will turn it into added value will also contribute to the provision of local and sustainable development. In other words, it should prioritize the establishment of a production-craft infrastructure for the livelihood economy with user-oriented housing strategies, as well as ensuring the integration of the location-specific rural heritage with daily life.

Savaşan and Kasaba settlements will cause visitors who come to the area with their gaze points to be here in a short period of time. In this context, it is necessary to create viewpoints and terraces in these areas and to produce qualified spaces for visitors. The restoration of the buildings in Savaşan Neighbourhood should be completed and re-functionalized in the integrity of Rumkale–Halfeti. Along with Rumkale, all elements that were added later and unauthorized to include Halfeti and Savaşan Neighbourhoods, and that have a negative impact on the historical, cultural significance and value of the area should be removed.

The rise of the water level due to the dam in the region has eliminated the terrestrial transportation connection with Rumkale. Therefore, access to Rumkale can be provided by waterway. In this framework, spatial infrastructure should be developed for water transportation. On the other hand, the 30 m height difference between Rumkale and the water level creates an obstacle especially for the disadvantaged groups to reach the castle. For this reason, accessibility opportunities to the site by different means of transport should be examined and developed. In addition to these spatial infrastructure needs, a visitor centre should be established for Rumkale. In this way, it will be a service point to meet the basic needs of the visitor groups and contribute to the development of tourism opportunities within the balance of protection and use.

The area should be handled in a holistic manner, and all natural or human-induced risks that may threaten the archaeological heritage and examples of civil architecture should be evaluated together. All elements that were added to the area later or that have a negative impact on the historical and cultural value of the area should be removed. Any additions thought to be made for Rumkale and its surroundings should be evaluated considering the historical and cultural importance and value of the area. The arrangements to be made should be in the direction of increasing the value of the area.

3.4.4 Strategies for improving social–cultural infrastructure. One of the fundamental issues for sustainable conservation and development in cultural heritage areas should be to contribute to social development in the region. In this framework, it is important to reduce out-migration, which is one of the main problems in the field, and to develop opportunities to provide employment on site. In this framework, it is possible to create employment in these sectors with training for the services sector required by different tourism opportunities in the field. In addition, entrepreneurship towards the collection, processing and sales of products to be produced at local level should be supported. Efforts to increase agricultural product diversity will lead to new employment opportunities and local economic development. On the other hand, urban social and technical infrastructure areas that will serve the visitors and permanent population in the area should not be developed. It is important for the organization of various activity areas and for the development of social and cultural infrastructure areas to support both the management and protection of the area and its environment.

Another issue for the protection of cultural heritage sites in the context of sustainability is participation. In order to ensure social participation, models should be developed for the involvement of local people in decision-making processes as well as their role in economic development. In this context, local organization forms aimed at creating cultural heritage

awareness, local identity and sense of belonging should be developed, and local people should be ensured to participate in the administration process through these.

3.4.5 Strategies for developing institutional infrastructure. The basic element in the development of the institutional infrastructure is the development of the area management model. The most basic point of the field management process to be healthy and sustainable is to be able to manage together. This is how different institutions have authority and responsibility, which is one of the most important problems in the field management process. With the participation of public institutions, private sector investors, non-governmental organizations, academic environment and the people living in the field, different groups who have a voice or knowledge to agree on the decisions regarding the field, saving time by preventing the repetition of the same work, transparency, data flow and feedback will be provided after each intervention. Authority and task definition for the necessary resource planning for the institutional infrastructure, as well as the protection and development of the area, should be made. Due to the fact that Rumkale and the settlements in its area of influence are located within different administrative boundaries, it is very important to prepare a site management plan to eliminate the lack of coordination between institutions and to use the scarce resources in the hands of the public more effectively.

4. Conclusions

The paper emphasizes the necessity of multi-faceted conservation-development strategies to integrate the Rumkale archaeological site and the historic rural settlement areas in the impact area with the current life and make them sustainable in Gaziantep, on the banks of the Fırat River. With this point of view, Rumkale archaeological site is discussed together with the historical Halfeti, Kasaba and Savaşan settlements. A holistic protection-development approach has been developed that takes environmental, spatial, economic, social-cultural and intuitional components based on sustainability.

This approach, expressed as a Sustainable Conservation and Development Strategy, should be considered as a planning-implementation guide that offers alternative solutions for different issues and contents for the sustainable conservation-development of the spatial characteristic and functional identity values shaped by the cultural and natural heritage values of the heritage site. This guide is based on a sustainable conservation approach that addresses tangible cultural heritage values related to Rumkale and rural heritage areas within its impact area and intangible cultural heritage values related to traditional life practices, in the light of multi-faceted and integrated strategies.

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