



Regeneration of Historical Akçaabat Ortamahalle Tarihi Akçaabat Ortamahalle'nin Yeniden Canlandırılması

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ÖZET

Kent kimliğinin vazgeçilmez bir unsuru olan tarihi çevreler, içinde buldukları zaman boyunca sosyal, kültürel ve teknolojik değişimlerin etkisi altında kalmaktadırlar. Yaşanması kaçınılmaz olan bu değişimde, tarihi dokuların, kendilerine özgü niteliklerini kaybetmeden geleceğe aktarılması gelecek kuşaklar adına oldukça önemlidir. Tarihte İslam ve Hristiyan toplumlarına başkentlik yapmış ve bu toplumların yaşayış farklılıklarından etkilenmiş Akçaabat ilçesi ülkemizin önemli tarihi çevreleri arasında yer almaktadır. Geçmiş milattan öncelere dayanan Akçaabat ilçesi Roma, Bizans, Komnenos ve Osmanlı dönemlerine ait birçok eseri de günümüze aktarabilmiş Karadeniz'in nadir ilçelerinden birisidir. Sahip olduğu özgün tarihi çevresi ile 1988 yılında kentsel sit alanı ilan edilen Akçaabat Ortamahalle koruma ve yeniden canlandırma süreci içerisine girmiştir. Bu çalışmada sürdürülebilir koruma yaklaşımları ve yapılan uygulamalar ortaya koyularak Akçaabat Ortamahalle'nin tarihi çevre korumasına yönelik politikalar sorgulanmıştır. Çalışma (i) Akçaabat Ortamahalle'ye yönelik karakteristik özelliklerin uzman paydaşlar tarafından irdelenmesi ve mevcut durumun ortaya konulması, (ii) Uzman görüşmeleri ile elde edilen koruma, turizm, ekonomik gelir elde etme, eğitim ve bilinçlendirme temalarına yönelik bulgulardan oluşmaktadır. Elde edilen tüm bulgular sonucunda Akçaabat Ortamahalle'nin canlandırılması sürecinde tüm paydaşların (uzman grup, yöre halkı vb.) aktif olarak yer alması ve koruma bilincinin küçük yaşlardan itibaren bireylere verilerek tarihi çevre korumanın başarılı bir şekilde yapılabileceği sonucuna varılmıştır. Sonuç olarak hem Akçaabat Ortamahalle'nin yeniden canlandırılması hem de dünya üzerindeki tüm tarihi çevrelerin sürdürülebilir bir şekilde korunmasına yönelik öneriler geliştirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Tarihi Çevre Koruma, Kentsel Sit, Akçaabat Ortamahalle, Kültürel Miras

ABSTRACT

Historical sites, which are an indispensable element of urban identity, remain under the influence of social, cultural and technological changes throughout their time. In this inevitable change, it is of vital importance to transfer the historic fabric to the future without losing its unique qualities. Akçaabat district, which had been the capital of Islamic and Christian societies in history and influenced by the differences in the lifestyles of these societies, is one of the important historical sites of our country. Akçaabat district, whose history dates back to ancient times, is one of the rare districts of the Black Sea, which has been able to transfer many works belonging to the Roman, Byzantine, Komnenos and Ottoman periods from past to the present day. Akçaabat Ortamahalle, which was declared an urban site in 1988 with its original historical surroundings, has been undergone in a process of conservation and regeneration. In this study, sustainable conservation approaches and practices were discussed and the policies on historic environmental conservation of Akçaabat Ortamahalle were questioned. The study consists of findings concerning (I) the examination of the characteristics of Akçaabat Ortamahalle by the expert stakeholders and revealing the current situation, (ii) the themes of conservation, tourism, economic income generation, education and awareness generated through expert

interviews. As a result of all the findings, it was concluded that, in order to achieve historic environmental protection successfully, all the stakeholders (expert group, local community etc.) should be actively engaged in the regeneration process of Akçaabat Ortamahalle and conservation awareness should be gained by the individuals from young ages. As a result, proposals were developed both for the regeneration of the Akçaabat Ortamahalle and for the sustainable conservation of all historical sites around the world.

Keywords: Historic Environment Protection, Urban Site, Akçaabat Ortamahalle, Cultural Heritage

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the architect Gustavo Giovannoni: “the restoration work should be preserved with scientific methods, along with the surrounding texture.” His thought gave rise to the search for a new language in restoration work. This quest has also helped shape the view that all countries of the world should have a common language and criteria in the passing on to future generations and protecting the historic site comprehensively (Bogenç, 2016:156). Cultural heritage sites, shaped by space and time, have increasingly become the expression of culture and identity. These cultural heritage sites, which always coexist with individuals, develop and they are influenced by contemporary approaches and experiences (Harvey, 2010:319-338). The cultural diversity of an area is evaluated as an evolutionary process which is comprised of multi-scale (ranging from local to global) approaches either with tangible or intangible, temporal or spatial, technology-based or nature-based features that represent the continuity of the codes hidden in its identity (Vallega, 2003; ICOMOS).

Advocating the view that conservation is a multidisciplinary work (Zucconi, 2014:76-91) Gustavo Giovannoni developed the principles of Camillo Boito, the pioneer of restoration theory, and pioneered the dissemination of these principles at the international level, and the issue was comprehensively discussed at the “The I. International Conference of Architects and Technicians on Conservation of Ancient Monuments” in 1931 in Athens. This first step towards conservation was followed by the Venice Charter in 1964 and the European Charter of Architectural Heritage in 1975, and the concept of “integrated conservation” emerged. Important decisions were taken in 1975 Declaration of Amsterdam, 1976 Recommendations Concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Roles of the Historic Areas, 1985 Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in 1992 (European Urban Charter) and the Charter on the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas 1987 (The Washington Charter). With the meetings and decisions that have been conducted to date, it was concluded that conservation can be successful if urban regional planning policies, socio-economic developments and local people participate in the process of protecting historical cities and historical urban areas (Sezgin, 2002:46-51). The Washington Convention was followed by the 1993 Basic Principles of Education and Training for the Protection of Monuments, Culverts and Sites, and the 1995 meeting of the International Education Committee (Erder, 2018:21-42). Historic Sites Protection at international level has evolved from a single-monument level to an understanding that aims integrated protection with contemporary functions (Veldpaus, et al., 2013: 3-18). It is because according to Warshaw et al., 2000, a historic site should be protected since (I) it has its unique character and beauty of the period when it was constructed, (II) it provides information about the creators and users of these values in the past, and important people and events of our cultural memory, (III) repairing or improving it is often seen as detrimental, (IV) it has a revitalizing economic effect and (V) it draws attention to the growing interest about the sustainable future of protection.

Based on the idea to make protection more successful and controlled, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) started to create a List of World Heritage sites and monuments of universal value, and ultimately a new protection status for natural

and cultural values has been established. The system focuses on the need to protect and manage World Heritage sites, especially in present-day conditions where the protection and management of heritage sites is at risk (Roders and Oers, 2011:5-14). A new attraction to be created needs a particularly qualified cultural heritage site (Rindell, 2013:197-213 and Prayag, 2009:836-853). However, the legal regulations need to be improved (Sadowski, 2017). Visits to cultural heritage sites with historical backgrounds help individuals to experience traces of the past and to question their time. This personal recognition and emotional responsiveness of cultural heritage sites is often highlighted by scientists (McIntosh and Prentice, 1999:589-612). These developments have enabled the recognition of intangible cultural heritage, which has long been ignored, as heritage by preserving it (Vecco, 2010: 321-324).

The conservation of historic sites, the common heritage of humanity, will enable cultural heritage to be passed on to the future (McKercher and Cros, 2002:284). Largely examined in terms of heritage sites and ethnic identity (Phinney, 1990: 499–514), cultural identity creates a sense of self on the culture of heritage, particularly a sense of belonging, loyalty, and shared values (Phinney, et al., 2001:493-510). However, no matter how extensive the heritage in cultural geography, the conceptualization of landscape and culture is still a subject of controversy (Morrissey, et al., 2014:238). That the landscape components represent heterogeneity in shape, style and function contributes to regional diversity (Mautone, 2001:9-16) and has a widespread influence on the formation of “mosaics” within cultural heritage. Today, naturalists and designers of the built environment have come to the idea that interdisciplinary cooperation is necessary in conservation studies (Erder, 2018:25-56).

In parallel to the emerging conservation approaches in the world (Nguyen, et al., 2006:1-19), important steps have been taken on the protection of cultural heritage in Turkey. In this respect, laws and regulations have been established with the joint work of state and non-governmental organizations and new decisions have been taken regarding the protection of historic sites. Successfully protected cultural heritage sites attract visitors and contribute to the development of tourism in the region. It is not important how these areas are but how they are presented to visitors (Poria, et al., 2004:12-16).

Safranbolu, one of the successful conservation examples in our country, has reached the present day as one of the urban heritage sites where the trio of Nature-Human-Structure can exist in harmony. The basis of this study is the idea that the conservation process of Safranbolu, which is known as the capital of conservation in Turkey, can also be a reference for Ortamahalle. It is on the UNESCO World Heritage list within Turkey, a cultural mosaic with tangible and intangible cultural heritage items of outstanding universal value. Safranbolu, located in the Western Black Sea region as a tangible heritage site, was listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994 as part of natural and cultural heritage (Bayazıt, 2014:6-18 and Canbulat, 2016:225-251). Safranbolu is one of the rare Anatolian cities in which the natural and cultural values and the power of human creativity are successfully displayed, and which convey the way of life in the Ottoman period to the present day. Ortamahalle, which is an urban site with similar settlement characteristics to Safranbolu, was stated in the historical Seyahatname (*lit.Travelogue*) of Evliya Çelebi as the only natural port of Trabzon shoreline (Öksüz, 2013:215-225). The historic Ortamahalle, one of the most important neighborhoods of the district, has been able to maintain its nearly 200-year-old structure intact until today and its historical value was registered as an urban site in 08.24.1988. In this study, based on the idea that a historical texture is not only the heritage of the country in which it is located but of all humanity as stated in the European Urban Charter (Poria, et al., 2004:12-16), it was focused on the question of preserving the historical texture of the Ortamahalle. As Cleere noted in 1993, by the second half of the 20th century, increasing tourism and development movements are destroying and damaging cultural and natural assets. In the regeneration process of Ortamahalle, it is aimed to preserve all its natural and cultural properties and transfer them to the future. Ortamahalle has been

consigned to oblivion for many years due to unconscious use, illegal construction and indifference of local people. Therefore, a planning and management approach is needed to preserve architectural values within the urban site, addressing social, economic and spatial dimensions on a common ground.

2. MATERIAL and METHOD

2.1 Study Area

In this study, Trabzon-Akçaabat (Ortamahalle) (Figure 1), which is an urban site with a historic identity, was selected as the study area since it has differences in terms of traditional Anatolian settlement layout. Ortamahalle, one of the 9 neighborhoods of Akçaabat district (Özen, 2013:445-460), which is a beautiful example of the reflection of topography on the settlement, is a historic city center that has preserved its 200-year-old structure (St. Michael Greek Orthodox Church (Figure 1-B), Lermioğlu Mansion, Mehmet Efendi Mansion, Kanoğlu Mansion, Timurciler mansion and Hatice Sultan mansion) and its traditional character. A large part of Ortamahalle, whose historical value has been registered, was declared a protected site on 24.08.1988 whose boundaries are given in Figure 1. Ortamahalle houses, which were built by Greek and Turkish settlers (Doğan, 2014:431-444) with characteristic features on a neighborhood scale, comprise a historical urban texture aligned with topography, parallel to each other and positioned towards the landscape (Makaklı, 2013:461-468). With its sloping topography and non-attached building layout, the houses do not interfere with each other's views (Figure 1-a). Owing to the extensive use of gardens and the morphology of the land, all the houses are quite distant from each other. The settlement was developed on the east side, while the west side was covered with olive trees all the way to the beach. In the Ortamahalle neighborhood and its environs, olive production had been made for many years and olive and olive oil were recorded as an economic value. The high walls of the houses parallel to the street (Figure 1-C) are characteristic of the neighborhood and distinguish Ortamahalle from traditional Anatolian neighborhoods (Karabulut, 2018:41-67). As stated by Rindell (2013: 197-213) and Prayag (2009: 836-853), the discourse that qualified cultural heritage sites can create new attractions prevails for the Ortamahalle as well.

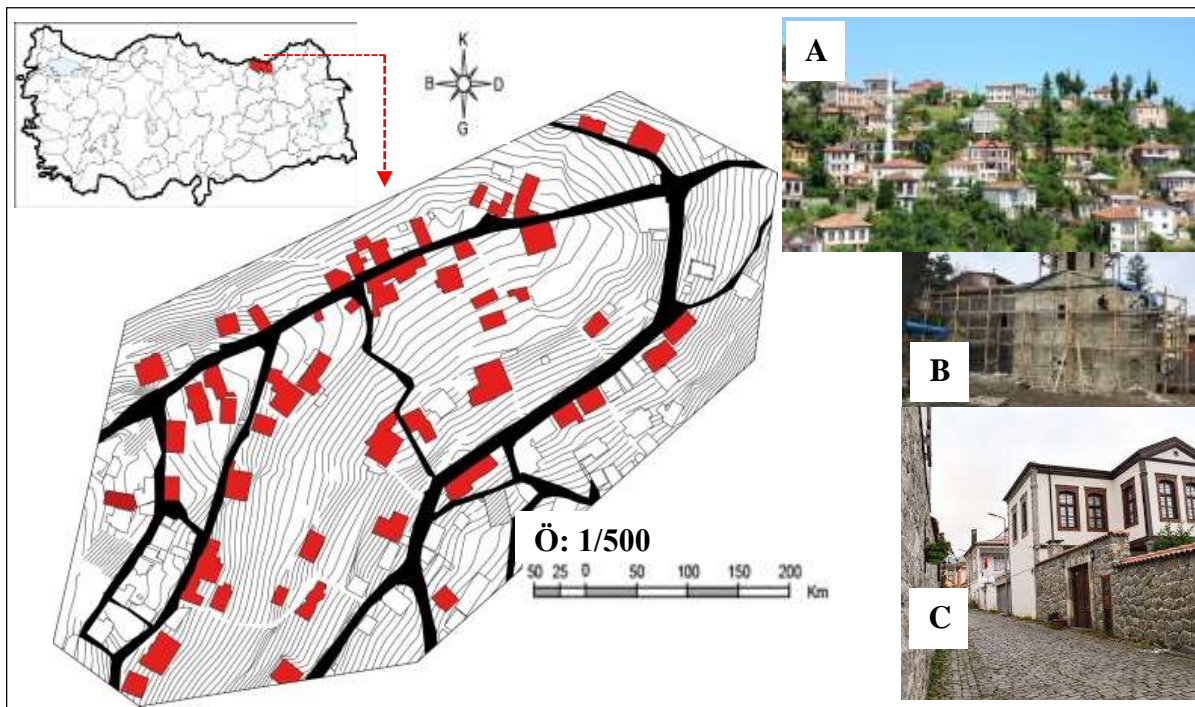


Figure 1. Study area (Akçaabat Ortamahalle)

2.2. Data Collection and Evaluation

In this study, where the qualitative research design was used, observations and face-to-face interviews were conducted with 8 different stakeholders (1:Akçaabat Governorate; 2: Akçaabat Municipality; 3:Akçaabat, Development Directorate; 4:Akçaabat Ortamahalle Mukhtar; 5: Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage Conservation; 6: Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Fine Arts; 7: provincial directorate of Tourism, 8:Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Tourism) during March 2019 in Akçaabat Ortamahalle through the snowball sampling method. While determining the stakeholders, due importance was exercised to prefer individuals who have knowledge about the natural and cultural values of Akçaabat Ortamahalle and who can develop different perspectives on conservation issues and who can play an active role in the regulation of urban life. The interviews took 15 to 30 minutes in average, based on an initial sound recording and subsequent analysis of these sound recordings. The Venice Charter (1964), the European Architectural Heritage Charter (1975) and The Washington Charter (1987) were used in preparing interview questions for the study and the evaluation was conducted in 2 different stages.

In the first phase, using the method developed by Bekçi et al., (2018:988-1000), the expert group was asked about the historical site management in Akçaabat Ortamahalle, protection of the historical site, determination of the characteristic features of the area and tourism. Answers given to multiple choice questions posed to experts are as follows;

- Spearman coefficients (r) and significance levels were determined by correlation analysis, and data obtained through the surveys were tabulated using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) 16.01 package program.,
- Questions were asked concerning the historical site management and protection and results were tabulated,
- The following hypotheses were questioned and interpreted: “These sites can be protected more successfully by involving relevant stakeholders in the process of regeneration of historical sites” and “Local administration efforts are fundamental in the regeneration of historical sites”.

As a second parameter, questions were asked to the local people about the historic site protection approaches concerning Ortamahalle based on the most-addressed themes (historic site management and tourism (Poria, 2001:51-53), protection of the historic site, urban landscape, economic income generation, training and awareness) among the answers obtained from the interviews conducted with the experts. The correlation analysis method was used in surveys conducted in March 2019.

3. RESULTS

The results of the study are obtained from (i) the expert investigation about the characteristics of Akçaabat Ortamahalle and (II) investigation of the themes addressed within the expert (historic site management and tourism, protection of historical sites, urban landscape, economic income generation, training and awareness) by the local people.

3.1. Investigation of the Characteristics of the Study Area and the Current Situation by the Expert Groups

Of the participants, 53% were female and 47% were male. Only the gender factor was taken into consideration since there was a significant relationship only between the gender factor and other socio-demographic characteristics of the participants. In the face-to-face interviews with the experts, it was stated that the transportation difficulties in Ortamahalle the affected tourism and the economy negatively ($r=, 674^*$) and even that the historical site could not be maintained appropriately ($r=, 1000^*$) (Table 1). It was also emphasized that the historical texture, architecture, garden-building relationship and street texture of Ortamahalle bear the symbolic feature of Akçaabat district.

Table 1. Evaluation of Characteristics and Current Status of Ortamahalle by the Experts

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A1 Gender (Female, Male)	a	-,500	-,564	,756*	,250	,000	,000	,250
A2 Do you think that the historic texture of Ortamahalle bear any symbolic features? (Yes; No)	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
A3 Is there any in tourism or economic deficiency against the development of Ortamahalle? (Yes; No)			,737*	,189	-,125	,354	,354	-,125
A4 What do you think is the most important problem of Ortamahalle? (Transportation problems, environmental pollution, noise pollution, insufficient recreational areas, insufficient green-fields, neglected historical buildings)				-,082	,347	,674*	,674*	,054
A5 Is there any effort for the promotion of Ortamahalle at national and international levels? (Yes; No)					,189	,267	,267	,189
A6 Do the tourism activities in Ortamahalle cause any changes in the historic sites? (Yes; No)						,354	,354	-,125
A7 Are the historic site conservation principles successfully applied in Ortamahalle? (Yes; No)							1,000**	,619
A8 Is the historical site of Ortamahalle sustainably protected? (Yes; No)								,619
A9 Is due diligence exercised during the regeneration, maintenance, and restoration works in Ortamahalle? (Yes; No)								-

During the face-to-face interviews with the experts about protection, tourism, economy and socio-cultural aspects, the shortcomings were determined as follows: (I) urbanization pressure, (II) Renovation and repairs inappropriate to the historic texture and to the ergonomics, (III) the absence of social life in the neighborhood, (IV) inability to promote and provide information to the local people about the historic site, and (V) the existence of illegal construction in protected areas and its pressure on the historic texture.

In order to promote Ortamahalle in national and international platforms, it was emphasized that Akçaabat Municipality should organize symposiums, support academic studies, and based on the fact that joint efforts conducted with the Karadeniz Technical University Department of Architecture Restoration Chair are not sufficient, the municipality should participate in Tourism Week celebrations with a highlight on not only historic mansions but also the St. Michael Greek Orthodox Church. In addition, it was stated that, with the development of tourism, Ortamahalle will develop in both economic and socio-cultural terms. In order for Ortamahalle to become an international tourism center, experts state that;

- The St. Michael Greek Orthodox Church should be restored and promoted,
- Emphasizing the relationship between the house and garden, which is one of the characteristics of this neighborhood, the relationship between the historical façade and garden should be highlighted with restorations,
- The intangible cultural heritage should be promoted,
- Tourism should be supported by participating in international fairs subsequent to the completion of restoration works in historic buildings and their street improvements,
- Making the Ortamahalle attractive for both domestic and foreign tourists,
- Increasing the number of accommodation facilities,
- Encouraging businesses to produce and sell local products (Kuymak, black cabbage soup, Kaygana, anchovy rice, anchovy pan, etc.).

It was stated that the efforts to protect the historic site of Ortamahalle (The activities of Associations and the Council of Monuments, restorations of the historic textures, environmental planning and street improvement) were temporary solutions rather than being sustainable. Furthermore, it was also emphasized that the illegal construction should be prevented, projects should be supported that promote the green texture, the neighborhood texture should be revitalized, the parking problem should be solved and the transportation should be replanned.

Table 2. Exert Opinions Concerning the Historic Site Management in Akçaabat Ortamahalle

Problems About the Historic Site Management of Akçaabat Ortamahalle	Options								Expert Interpretations About the Questions	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8
1. Question: Akçaabat Ortamahalle is one of the important historic sites of our country with its architectural values, religious buildings, original garden texture belonging to the Ottoman period. However, due diligence it deserves has not been shown for this historic site. What is the reason for this?	A	✓								The lack of consciousness of conservation in individuals, the lack of public support and the failure of local governments to work on the protection of the Historic Site
	B							✓	✓	
	C		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
A) Insufficient finance, B) Failure to appoint experts appropriate to the professional disciplines different in planning and implementation, C) Underdeveloped consciousness about conservation and lack of due diligence shown to the historic/cultural and architectural values by the administrations.										
2. Question: One of the ways to preserve the historic texture is to bring these areas into Tourism. Do you think this area will gain the value it deserves when tourism develops in the region?	A									In case of a conscious conservation, Tourism will benefit economically and help local people to own and protect the historical site.
	B								✓	
	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
A) Historic texture may be protected by designing the places as living places. Conservation can also be done by bringing artistic and cultural activities to these places, B) Cultural activity damages the historic site. Only expeditions should be organized respectful to these places, C) There is no need for a cultural activity, instead, a consciousness if conservation can be achieved by increasing the life quality of the citizens.										
3. Question: Will the regeneration of Ortamahalle contribute to the economy of the local people?	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	In addition to the protection of the historic site, economic gain will be achieved by adding different recreational activities and places.
	B									
	C									
A) There is no historical city texture left in the city center. Because all kinds of functions and structures are located in this area, B) Building heights and densities should be controlled and developments should not be allowed to shadow the historical urban texture, C) Sometimes the old and new may not be reconciled. At times like this history and culture can be ignored and what the new one										

needs require is done.										
4. Question: Does education have a role in the conservation of historical sites?	A									It was emphasized that educating from early ages is very important in raising awareness about protecting historic sites.
	B					✓				
	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
A) Providing seminars about the natural and cultural values of the local people, B) Local people should actively participate in conservation activities in line with their education, C) Providing education about the historical site awareness starting from elementary school level.										
5. Question: How can the awareness of individuals be increased about historical site protection?	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		It was emphasized that protection awareness can be gained by education starting from an early age.
	B									
	C								✓	
A) Education, B) Active use, C) Local administrations.										

Expert Group: (1:Akçaabat Governorate; 2: Akçaabat Municipality; 3:Akçaabat Development Directorate; 4:Akçaabat Ortamahalle Mukhtar; 5: Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage Conservation; 6: Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Fine Arts; 7: Provincial Directorate of Tourism, 8:Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Tourism)

During the face-to-face interviews, it was emphasized that restoration and repair efforts were welcomed but not enough; it was also stated that the local people should take more active role in the conservation process and it can be achieved by providing economic income for the local people in this area. Concerning the failure to show due diligence and give value for the protected urban site in Akçaabat Ortamahalle, 62.5% of the stakeholders stated that the awareness level of the local people about conservation was not developed and 25% stated that the central and local government did not conduct the necessary work to open the historical site for tourism. Additionally, 87.5% of the stakeholders were concerned about uncontrolled tourism impacts, stating that tourism activities in the area should be carried out in accordance with the balance of use of protection and that local people should take part in tourism activities in social, cultural and economic terms. Furthermore, the answers to the questions about the role of education in historic site conservation and how to develop historical site awareness are similar at a rate of 87.5 %. They emphasized that historic site awareness should be given in educational institutions from a young age (Table 2).

Table 4. Determining the Current Status of Conservation Akçaabat Ortamahalle Historical Site

Questions about determining the current status of conservation Akçaabat Ortamahalle historical site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total Score
1. Can the historic site conservation be conducted successfully in Akçaabat Ortamahalle?	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	4.8
2.Can the historical texture in Ortamahalle, which is a protected urban site, be a symbolic value for Akçaabat district?	0.8	0.7	1	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	6
3. Are the conservation efforts for Ortamahalle, which is a protected urban site, conducted/supervised by the relevant institutions?	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	4
4.Will the development of historic site tourism help the development of Akçaabat?	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	1	0.8	0.7	0.7	6

(1: Akçaabat Governorate; 2: Akçaabat Municipality; 3:Akçaabat Development Directorate; 4:Akçaabat Ortamahalle Mukhtar; 5: Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage Conservation; 6: Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Fine Arts; 7: Provincial Directorate of Tourism, 8: Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Tourism)

Answers to questions about the historic site of Akçaabat Ortamahalle were evaluated on the sum of the points given by each participant. As shown in Table 3, the participants stated that the historic

site of Akçaabat Ortamahalle has not been successfully preserved (total p:4,8), and that the protection is partially sufficient by emphasizing that Ortamahalle may be a symbolic historic site for both Akçaabat district and Trabzon (total p: 6). They stated that adequate supervision was not carried out on conservation (total p:4) and that tourism would play an important role for the socio-cultural and economic development of Akçaabat district (total p:6).

During face-to-face interviews, when the expert group was asked about the hypotheses of the study “Regeneration of Historic Akçaabat/Ortamahalle”; A) “These sites can be protected more successfully by involving relevant stakeholders in the process of regeneration of historical sites” and B) “Local administration efforts are fundamental in the regeneration of historical sites”; for hypothesis A, 80% of the stakeholders argued that all groups should take an active role in the development of historic sites, whereas in their approach to hypothesis B, 95% supported the idea that local governments are the driving force in the regeneration of historic sites.

3.2 Public survey results concerning the themes determined through the expert interviews

In the past, Ortamahalle had agricultural production (olive cultivation, viticulture etc.), through which the local people made their living, but today it has been determined that they only make agricultural production for themselves (r=, 431*). While the local people who have lived in Ortamahalle for ten years and more have found it positive that the neighborhood has become a tourist attraction, they have stated that the development in tourism will not put pressure on the historic texture of the Ortamahalle (r=, 386*), on the contrary, tourism will contribute to the neighborhood both in economical and socio-cultural terms (Table 4). The local people also stated that Ortamahalle was not successfully protected despite being an urban site (r=-,419*) so that due diligence was not shown in transferring this historic site to the future.

Table 4. Public survey results concerning the themes about Ortamahalle

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A1 Gender (Female, Male)	,266	-,026	-,062	-,042	-,223	-,219	,299	,236	,120
A2 Age (16-25; 26-35; 36-45; 46-55; 56-65; 65 and over)		,292	-,313	,240	-,299	-,008	,294	,431*	,294
A3 How long have you been living in Ortamahalle? (1-5; 6-10; 10 years and over)			-,166	,023	-,150	,347	,214	,339	,386*
A4 Do the institutions successfully implement their conservation works? (Yes; No)				-,432*	,419*	-,200	-,120	-,094	-,299
A5 Are there any shortcomings in tourism, economic and socio-cultural development? (Yes; No)					-,247	,159	,176	-,111	,176
A6 Do the fruit trees planted in the past (fig, olive and viticulture) contribute to the economy today? (Yes; No)						,150	-,351	-,277	-,088
A7 How today’s Ortamahalle differs from its past? (Historic texture; Green-field; Number of visitors)							-,125	-,099	,343
A8 Do you consume the agricultural products produced in Ortamahalle? (Yes; No)								,316	,040
A9 Do you earn any money from these products? (Yes; No)									,126
A10 Does development of tourism cause any changes									-

in the area? (Yes; No)	
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When the responses of the local people to the survey questions are evaluated, it is observed that the problems are listed as follows:

- Transportation problem,
- Promotion of Ortamahalle
- Raising the awareness in people about historic site,
- Protection of historic mansions,
- Informing the institutions about the shortcomings in the restoration of Ortamahalle,
- Lack of parking lot.

4. CONCLUSION and SUGGESTIONS

The Ortamahalle historic site, which has been selected as the study area owing to its original architectural structure and historical features reflecting the spirit of the place, is one of our important cultural heritage sites. The sustainable transfer of this historical texture to the future is very important for both present and future generations. Because preserved historic sites are not only remarkable and instructive, but also develop social relations between individuals in a positive way (Ahunbay, 2009:15-38). Through conservation management as well as the existing urban governance and socio-economic structure of the city, the future needs of the city are considered and restructuring of cities is provided with common goals and perspectives, allowing to gain a heritage value (Veldpaus et al., 2013:3-18). Through this study, when Ortamahalle, which is a protected urban site, is turned into a point of attraction via its tangible and intangible heritage values, it can become an important destination center for the peoples of the world. The participation of local people in various trainings which will contribute to the process of protecting the historic site will also ensure the sustainability of the site. In addition, the successful implementation of promotional efforts for tourism activities will increase the recognition of the cultural heritage area and enable the local people to be aware of tourism and to take an active role in protecting it.

When historic sites from past to present are examined, it is observed that the historic sites are comprised of places which can successfully establish the human-environment relationship with reference to the natural environment (settlement of houses appropriate to the topography, climate, agriculture, water, etc.) (McKercher and Cros, 2002:284). Although the nature-sensitive settlement system continued for many years, in order to meet the increasing housing need after the industrial revolution, a rapid and unplanned settlement system, which ignored natural and cultural data, was introduced. As a result, as in many world cities, the urbanization approach has increased day by day focusing on housing and consumption and ignoring the emotional needs of people whose natural and cultural values are being destroyed. Reducing the relationship between nature and man, this situation has adversely affected historic sites and caused rapid destruction of these areas. In Ortamahalle urban settlement, the nature-human relationship was successfully organized and the settlement was established. Ignoring this human-oriented natural environment and negatively affecting the local population in Turkish cities, the urban order is now being criticized by local governments and politicians as well. As a result, this nature-oriented human settlement discourse (transitioning from vertical architecture to horizontal architecture and compatible with the topography, not ignoring climatic conditions) is increasing. This is a promising case for the historic sites which are struggling for life under intense urban pressure and facing the threat of extinction. We can say that a historic site is a bridge between the past and the future and is the identity of the community in which it exists (Morrissey, et al., 2014:328). Participating in the Management of Heritage and Culture in the Landscape, stakeholders (government agencies, national public agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, professional sectors, scientific

institutions, cultural organizations, manufacturing organizations and foundations as public and private companies) undertake different roles. A “Historic Site Conservation and Management” model should be developed by integrating institutional participants with different vision, consciousness and sharing with each other (Mascari, et al., 2009:22-29).

The conservation approaches that have been put into effect in our country in recent years are promising. Thus, important steps have been taken regarding the conservation of the historic sites in our country with the current legislation and opportunities. It is important to address the following issues in line with the findings of the study regarding the regeneration process of Ortamahalle historic site;

- The need for the conservation and management of historic sites in line with the “integrated conservation” approach, as stated in the Venice Charter, is consistent with the results of the study. In line with local, regional and national strategies in the process of conserving and regenerating historic sites (Veldpaus, et al., 2013:3-18) it was seen how important it is to develop an understanding of holistic planning. In addition, nations and managers who feel the need to progress under the pressure of modernization need to carry out cultural analyses effectively and transfer them to designs. Thus, proper progress can be achieved with economic and political controls (Nguyen, et al., 2006:1-19).
- The prerequisite for the protection of natural and cultural assets in historic sites is the coordination of urbanization and tourism planning (Hirschman and Holbrook, 1982:92-101). Cultural heritage should be reflected to the present not only as reflections of the past but also in a way that can be recorded and documented. Additionally, this situation, which is considered an indispensable component of cultural diversity, can be passed on to future generations only by using creative ideas (Rodgers and Oers, 2011:5-14). Although the cultural heritage seems old by societies, it is actually new and is a form of cultural production that represents the past (Kirshenblatt Gimblett, 1998). In short, it is a reflection of the cultural texture of the region.
- The culture of inter-communal solidarity and co-working will be able to produce similar solutions by sharing experiences and achievements through a successful path in the process of preserving historic sites. In line with the results of the study, it was seen how important it is to protect historic sites with a multidisciplinary approach,
- While evaluating the cultural heritage sites to be designed, the future missions of the sites should be supported by long-term cooperation (Veldpaus, et al., 2013). This situation reinforces the relationship between the personal perception of cultural heritage site visitors and the ways they visit (Poria, et al., 2004), helping them gain new insights into the past as well as understanding their place in time (McIntosh and Prentice, 1999:589-612),
- The results of the study coincide with Stones (2016) that a successful conservation and renovation work could be possible only by public involvement,
- When interactions between Heritage Landscapes and Landscape Cultures assume a productive functionality depending on the regional platform and local identities, it will also ensure cultural heritage to gain higher “values”. Thus, both industrial innovations and quality education will ensure sustainable development in the cities (Mascari, et al., 2009:22-29). Planning efforts that respect the existing settlement order without ignoring the historic texture of new urban development support this issue.

It will be useful to create awareness about that we hold the natural and cultural values for future generations and to provide trainings in order to create this awareness in society. In this context, the trainings to be given to create this awareness in the society will provide significant benefits

(Bogenç, 2016:45). In order to increase the awareness of decision-makers and local people about the cultural heritage and the protection of this heritage, it is an important process for the sustainability of natural and cultural landscapes to prepare training programs, which introduce natural and cultural values to all members of the community.

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