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Abu Qir fortresses as vital assets for tourism motivation and community development

Fortece Abu Kir jako podstawa rozwoju turystyki i lokalnej społeczności

Key words: Abu Qir, tourism motivation, defensive architecture, fortresses, community development

Słowa kluczowe: Abu Kir, rozwój turystyki, architektura obronna, fortece, rozwój społeczności

1. INTRODUCTION

The last two centuries have brought to Alexandria most of its current urban characteristics. It is now seen as a city of a longitudinal spread building mass – compared to its width. Its expansion overland is physically restricted by a number of physical constraints: both the Mediterranean to the north, the Lake Mariut to the south and Abu Qir Bay to the east, working as natural guidance to Alexandria development axes. Abu Qir Bay is a shallow semi-circular basin lying 35 Km east of Alexandria city.

The coastline of Abu Qir Bay extends between headlands of Abu Qir in the southwest and Rosetta in the northeast. As in many coastal regions near major urban areas, the bay is used for variety of purposes, including industrial, commercial, fishing, shipping, army, and as a repository for sewage effluents. Years ago, Abu Qir was used as recreational boating area, for swimming and tourism activities. Meanwhile, the condition of this area is poorly maintained and poor public facility for visitors, such as accessibility, open public space and attractive activities [1].

Also by revising local city guides, it was noticed that many Abu Qir sites of architectural and historic importance are not listed. Through actual visits to these sites, it was clear that they face severe threats due to neglect and deterioration. The purpose of this research is to highlight buildings of special significance, raise awareness among local residents, protect these sites from further deterioration, and finally promote these sites for cultural tourism.

The selected sites and buildings are unique as they represent an expression of the local community's culture and they also obtain many unique Mediterranean architectural attributes and features.

2. HISTORY OF ABU QIR FORTRESSES

As the Mediterranean was always a place for tensions and conflicts between north and south as well as east and west, fortification and defensive buildings represented an important component of the planning scheme of Mediterranean cities during the 18th and 19th centuries. Alexandria, being the capital of Egypt and located on the Mediterranean, has always been the gateway and the link between Egypt and the rest of the Mediterranean. Through its long history, Alexandria was always prone to attacks and invasions from the outsiders including Romans, Arabs, French, and the British.

Defensive architecture in Alexandria consists of walls that surrounded the city, towers for observation and forts. The construction of defensive buildings in Egypt was active during the reign of Mohamed Ali, 1805–1849 for the protection of his realm against invaders. He planned a major defensive project for Alexandria and Rosetta. The assigned person for implementation was the French engineer Galisse Bek who constructed about 16 forts in Alexandria around 1840. The number increased later to 25 forts at the end of Mohamed Ali's reign. Moreover, he established an administrative authority responsible for defensive buildings and forts that was called "Maslahat al Istehkamat" or department of fortification. The department hired both foreign and Egyptian engineers [2].

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To defend the city effectively, defensive buildings were strategically located in prominent points on the coast of the Mediterranean, because threats were expected from the sea as in the case of Kait bey, Koussa pasha, Twefekeya and Agami forts. Other locations were on hilly sites inside the city, which provided an overlooking view for observation and surveillance of the upcoming danger as in the case of Kom el nadoura and Kom el dikka forts [2]. Figure 1 illustrates the map of contemporary Alexandria with the location of forts, towers and walls.

3. ABU QIR FORTIFICATIONS AS A PART OF THE SITE VITAL ASSETS

Fortresses and fortifications are authentic witness of cultural history and human civilization. These fortresses intimately bind with the area social history, urban development and residents' economic life. On elimination of their original military uses, numerous installations were demolished, left to fall into ruins or put to civilian uses.

A fortress consists of many parts and must always be understood and seen as a whole. Individual fortifications were intended not only as a structural shell for one or other function but also as state buildings manifesting the full power of the State and Nation. This is an aspect that must be taken into account in all matters of further employment or reuse, if justice is to be done to the importance of these structures as valued monuments [3].

Studying defensive architecture is important because of the following:

- It represents part of the Mediterranean traditional architecture.
- It was built by craftsmen with local materials and expertise.
- It is an expression of the local community's culture.
- Built on the area around the Mediterranean Sea.

To defend the city effectively, defensive buildings were strategically located in prominent points on the coast of the Mediterranean, because threats were expected from the sea as in the case of four forts in Abu Qir. Other locations were on hilly sites providing an overlooking view for observation and surveillance of the upcoming danger.

Because many forts are located in sites which are now military zones (Coastguard Forces) with no access to the public, little information is available and very little documentation is done for these buildings, even their existence is not assured as they can be demolished at any time because the military forces can have a better use for the land that the fort occupies within the camp. Moreover, most of these forts are not listed as buildings of special interest. So the truth is, that defensive architecture is facing a gloomy future and this type of Mediterranean architecture will eventually vanish unless a drastic intervention is introduced [2].

Abu Qir contains four individual fortifications built along Alexandria coastal line, but most of the Egyptians, even the Alexandrians, do not know about their presence. The four fortresses of Abu Qir are; El Tawfekeya, kousa pasha, El Borg and El Raml (fig. 2). In the following each fort will be described in more detail.

The architectural typology of forts used to be geometrical shapes as an octagon or a square where soldiers can hide behind it with circular towers at the corners. The high and thick walls

were used as places for services, accommodation and storage and in some cases water reservoirs. Forts used to have only one gate leading to a courtyard. Fig. 3 illustrates a diagram of the main components of a fort.

3.1. EL Tawfekeya Fort

It was once known by "El Shaheeneya" Fort. The fort, as shown in fig. 4, is currently used as Military Area and this is the reason that it's not listed as a monument yet. It lies in the western part of Abu Qir, it is located on fortified hill very near to canope Remains (Cleopatra baths) & Omar Toson Island inside a military site. It was constructed in the period of Ismail pasha & was completed by Tawfeek pasha in the same style of Mohamed Ali's forts [4].

Main architecture features

It is characterized by its entrance gate since it has a pediment and two columns which were not usually found in any other fortification or construction period. The fort consists of a pentagonal (lunar) vaulted wall built from white lime stone (small Bateeh stone) with pitched roof, its plan is similar to kousa pasha fort. The fort is still in a good condition, and it is one of the best remaining castles of Alexandria. The entrance to the fort is located to the east & is approached by a wooden bridge that passes over a water trench, fig. 4.

Current condition and usage

Physically it is in good condition because it is always maintained and restored by the military forces, however it suffers from:

- a) **Functional obsolescence:** Vandalism represented in the maladaptive reuse and the human intervention by changing the space's activities since they use it as storage spaces.
- b) **Image obsolescence:** Due to the uncomfortable traffic circulation and accessibility.
- c) **Official/ legal obsolescence:** Even though it is a monument, it is occupied by the military forces this shows the absence of monument regulating laws.

3.2. Kousa Pasha Fort

Kousa Pasha fort is the famous fort in Abu Qir. It was constructed in the period from 1798 to 1801, during the reign of Mohamed Ali Pasha [2]. Other names for the fortress are El Sabaa and koom Shoosha. The fort is located at the north eastern tip of Abu Qir bay on a sandy hill that overlooks the Mediterranean and Abu Qir bay, very near to the 6th of October military forces hotel; as shown below in fig. 6.

Main architecture features

The entrance to the fort is located to the east & is approached by a wooden bridge that passes over a water trench, fig. 7 and fig. 9-10. The fort consists of a pentagonal vaulted wall enclosing two rectangular shaped buildings built from white sand stone (small Bateeh stone) with pitched roof that were used as residence for soldiers, stores for food and powder. Four Armstrong cannons dated to 1870 are still remaining in the fort, fig. 8.



Fig. 1. illustrates the map of contemporary Alexandria with the location of forts, towers and walls [2]



Fig. 2. GIS coverage of the monuments: In-land (forts ruins and shrines), submerged in Abu-Qir Bay (sunken Herakleion and Canopus cities and the Napoleonic fleet) [1]

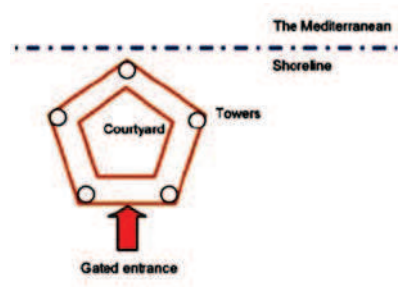


Fig. 3. Diagram of the main components of a fort [2]

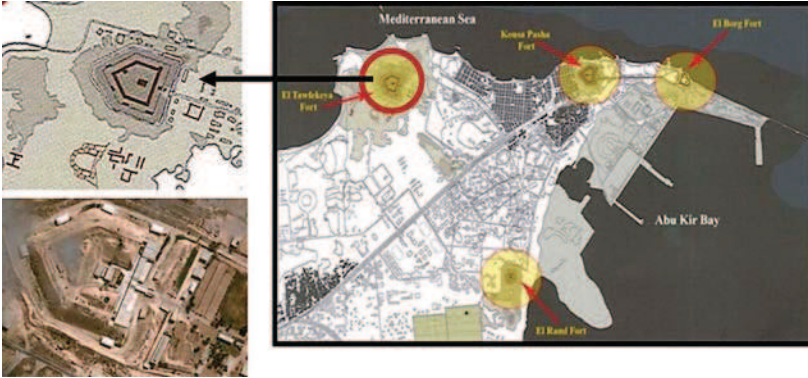


Fig. 4. Fort Site position in Abu Qir shown on the map and on the left a diagram drawing plan and a Google earth photo of the fort [5]



Fig. 9. Kousa Pasha Fort between 1914 to 1918 [4]

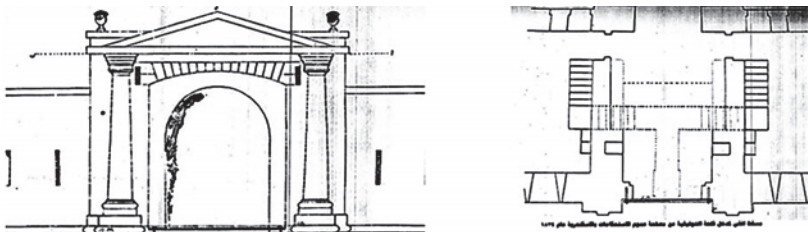


Fig. 5. Entrance gate. Elevation and plan dated to 1874 A.D. [5]



Fig. 10. Kousa Pasha Fort Nowadays



Fig. 11. Kousa Pasha sketch drawing of the main entrance facade



Fig. 6. Kousa Pasha Fort Site position in Abu Qir and a diagram drawing plan on the left [5]



Fig. 12. Kousa Pasha Nowadays Entrance Photo



Fig. 7. Sketch diagram illustrating the fort components



Fig. 8. showing Armstrong cannons dated to 1870 remaining in the fort



Fig. 13. Entrance gate motif remaining in the fort

Current condition and usage

The fort is registered as monument by the ministerial order number 231 for the year 1992. The fort as shown from fig. 9 to fig. 13 is currently used as military zone and is occupied by the families of ex-workers of the coastguard force [6].

The fort is deteriorated and suffers from the following:

- a) **Physical/structure obsolescence**: Loss of stone, in the form of alveolar and missing insets in the elevations as a result of sea exposure. Also the complete collapse of the left side soldier's dorms roof which happened due to the lack of maintenance. Alterations undertaken by the residents disfigured the authentic and original features of this type of defensive architecture, fig. 14-15).
- b) **Functional obsolescence**: Vandalism represented in the maladaptive reuse and the human intervention by changing the spaces activities since military ex-workers families use it as houses.
- c) **Image obsolescence**: Due to the uncomfortable traffic circulation and accessibility, sound pollution, bad smell and infrastructure.
- d) **Official / legal obsolescence**: Even though it is a monument it is occupied by the military forces and families which shows the absence of monument regulating laws.

3.3. Abu Qir Fort

It is also named El Borg Fort. It lies at the top end of Abu Qir peninsula inside the military harbor; as shown in fig. 17-18.

It was constructed at the end of the Mamluk era. Although there is an opinion that it might be from the Ayoobi era, since its walls & tower are very similar to Salah El Deen's castle style, in Cairo. It is the most important fort in Abu Qir, since it witnessed the French campaign fight. It was modified and renewed by Mohamed Ali & later by Abbas Helmy pasha who added a hospital to it [6,7].

Main architecture features

The fort was built of big lime stones (Destoury stone). It consists of two main parts, first the outer rampart which lies on the western part while the second is the fort itself. The outer rampart consists of two buildings, one of them is completely demolished while the other is in the form of right angled triangle surrounded by a trench. The western inner wall is straight with two small towers on their corners, while the eastern wall is semi-circular.

The fort entrance is approached by a wooden bridge that passes over a water trench. The entrance opening is a vaulted rectangle with a cornice and a pediment. Inside the fort's court we can find three rectangular buildings and the main tower. The main tower has a dodecagon shape. It consists of two floors and was built of stone covered with finishing layer (molat) most of which was demolished by time.

Current condition and usage

The fort is currently used as a military zone even though it is listed as a monument since 1964. Physically it is in a good

condition because it is always maintained and restored by the military forces, however it suffers from:

- a) **Functional obsolescence**: Vandalism represented in the maladaptive reuse and the human intervention by changing the spaces activities since they used it as storage spaces.
- b) **Image obsolescence**: Due to the uncomfortable traffic circulation and difficulty of access being a military area.
- c) **Official / legal obsolescence**: Even though it is a monument it is occupied by the military forces this showing the absence of monument regulating laws.

3.4. El Ramel Fort

Other famous name is "Koom El Agooz". It lies in the eastern part of Abu Qir near to the Arab Academy of Science & Technology, located on an unstable fortified sand hill on the ruins of Menutis and Abu Qir monastery inside a military site. It was constructed in the period from 1798 to 1801, during the era of Mohamed Ali Pasha [8].

Main architecture features

The fort is characterized by its style because it is one of the few forts of Mohamed Ali that have a rectangular shape & not a pentagonal (lunar) shape. It is built of white lime stone (small Bateeh stone). The external walls surrounding the fort from all sides are deteriorated and only small parts remain.

The inner walls surround only 3 sides, except the western side which is completely collapsed. The entrance lies in the northern side in the form of a vaulted rectangular gate into the inner court. The fort crypts (serdab) were buried inside the hill, requiring some future archeological excavation work to be discovered [7].

Current condition and usage

The fort is currently used as a military zone and it is not listed as a monument yet.

The fort is deteriorated and suffers from:

- a) **Physical/structure obsolescence**: Loss of stone, in the form of alveolar and missing insets in the remaining elevations this is due to the location nearness from the sea, also the complete collapse in most of the fort due to the instability of the fortified sand hill.
- b) **Functional obsolescence**: Vandalism represented in the maladaptive reuse and the human intervention by changing the spaces activities by the military forces.
- c) **Image obsolescence**: Due to the uncomfortable traffic circulation and accessibility and the bad infrastructure.
- d) **Official / legal obsolescence**: Even though it is a monument it is occupied by the military forces which shows the absence of monument regulating laws.

4. DEALING WITH FORTIFICATIONS AS HISTORIC MONUMENT

With the development of new war gear since the beginning of 20th century, traditional defensive buildings were no longer effective and were either demolished or left to fall into ruin. In



Fig. 14. Photos showing alterations undertaken by the residents disfigured the authentic and original features of this type of defensive architecture

Fig. 15. Photo showing the fort inner court



Fig. 16. Composed photos illustrating a general view of the fort with its bridged entrance, water trench and storage buildings



Fig. 17. Old map showing Fort Plan and village of Abu Qir 1754 [5]



Fig. 18. Abu Qir Fort position in Abu Qir



Fig. 19. Abu Qir battle portrait where the fortress was

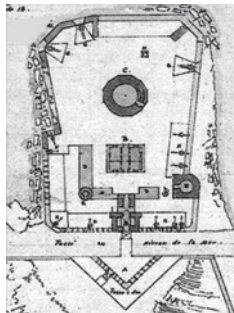


Fig. 20. Drawing showing main old construction plan

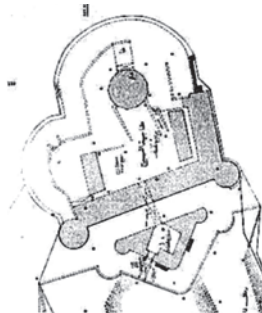


Fig. 21. Existing plan after modifications



Fig. 22. Google photo of Abu Qir fort



Fig. 23. Photo of the fort nowadays from a sailing boat



Fig. 24. The old photo of the wall tower from inside the fort showing the sea front



Fig. 25. The entrance gate; old photo dated 1975 in which military guards are there



Fig. 26. Sketch drawing showing old construction plan [5]



Fig. 27. Sketch drawing showing old construction plan [5]

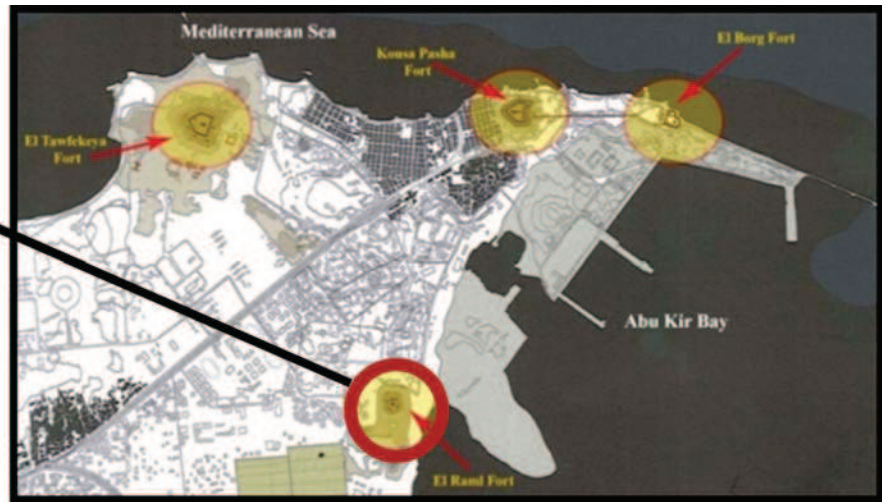


Fig. 28. El Raml Fort Site position in Abu Qir



Fig. 29. Photo of the fort remains on the hill



Fig. 30. Photo showing the entrance gate



Fig. 31. Photo showing the fort remains from inside



Fig. 32. Photo showing soldiers' hostels



Fig. 33. 3D map for future development proposal plan for Abu Qir district

their varied states of maintenance, along with the rapid population growth they posed an obstacle for the development of the city. Therefore, some of these buildings were demolished by city planning officials to give space for the expansion of the city. Many installations today present a major challenge, especially for the conservation of historic monuments. Although many kinds of attempted solutions already exist for this purpose, the topic still requires a broadly based approach [9].

Even more, many of the forts at Abu Qir are under the management of the Egyptian Coastguard Forces, which shows national security issues come over costly need for the conservation and preservation of this unique cultural heritage.

The maintenance and use of fortifications presents a multiplicity of problems:

- They are not usually well-researched,
- Only rarely are they fully maintained,
- They are difficult to maintain for technical reasons,
- They are usually costly to maintain,
- They are difficult to reuse,
- The ownership situation is frequently complicated as most of Abu Qir fortifications are occupied by the military.

The basic idea here is the generally recognised principle that the survival of monuments can be guaranteed only by their long-term use. The best use for a monument is in all cases continuing the use for which it was originally designed, which in the case of fortresses is certainly not desirable. Day-to-day practice in monuments care further demonstrates that the majority of monuments are continuing with use structures other than those originally intended.

The topical property of an “architectural monument” and, in this case, the special group of “fortresses” even more so, not only needs special technical competence in approach but, moreover, a high degree of creativity in development, information providing and public relations. Nonetheless, many positive examples show that precisely the topic of “fortresses” or in an extended sense “military history” offers a perfect platform for making use of the increasing interest in the historical aspects of regions and corresponds to an increased desire for identification and local orientation. Based on a broad focus of cultural similar cases either in Aga Khan development projects or UNESCO, fortresses should not only be thematically developed individually but also appear particularly suited to being included in integrated cultural landscape development concepts, marketing approaches and identity plans.

The concepts of new forms of utilization of fortresses (tourism, cultural site, historic exhibit, and entertainment site respectively) are nowadays a criterion to what extends a city or region can create impulses for its own development. Development also must include not only traffic connections but the provision of “utilities” in the area.

A proposal plan for Kousa Pasha fort is to reuse it, adaptively, as a Military Museum to illustrate the historical battles that took place in Abu Qir bay “battle of the Nile” between the British and French army headed by Nelson in August 1798 can also create a tourist attraction asset.

Furthermore, Abu Qir fort can be reused as a distinguished hotel to accommodate visitors. Sea excursions can be made to the nearby Nelson Island and also underwater diving expeditions can be made to see the sunken fleet of Napoleon providing a unique and an exclusive narration of the war by offering this extraordinary experience for visitors, especially British and French tourists as well as local Egyptians [10, 11].

An initiative for the promotion of the Kousa pasha fort as a place of special interest along with other buildings was taken by publishing the Alexandria Cultural Routes, which is a guide consisting of seven walking tours that promote the sites of the city for tourists [2].

Other two forts can be used as historical exhibits or multipurpose halls for conference and workshops, as is the case in Horti Sallustiani in Rome. When the plan is implemented and traditional defensive architecture is celebrated and embraced, it is expected that the intervention will be a driving force for social and economic development of the area, a development tool for cultural tourism and a resource for inter-Mediterranean culture.

Raising awareness among local residents, protecting these sites from further deterioration, and finally promoting these sites for cultural tourism are also main targets in achieving sustainability in culture tourism. A planned ring road will embrace the submerged sunken monuments and the defensive architecture in the site, connecting them with other touristic assets.

Optimum utilization of the elements of the region’s location is a privilege for the establishment of a global tourist destination seeking to increase the attractions of the city of Alexandria. Activating the program of tourism development for the region and the involvement of the local people in management and implementation of the project, will reduce poverty and unemployment among the population of the region.

The potential relationships between tourism, conservation, and planning within the sustainability discourse in Abu Qir area can be summarized in four objectives (1) the need for long-term active planning, (2) the need to protect the cultural heritage as a natural resource that if neglected will be degraded, (3) the acceptance of rapid change of the urban fabric and development to ensure continuity, and (4) the need to reconsider equitable access to heritage resources by the local community and visitors.

5. NEEDED ACTION PLAN FOR ABU QIR DEVELOPMENT

Listing and assessment of the current status of Abu Qir forts presented in this paper is the preceding step in the protection of Abu Qir valuable assets. The conservation protection laws regularly require monuments to be not only researched and maintained but also used. The issue of investing and preserving historical buildings of cultural value is lately considered to be one of the main problems that attracted the attention and concern of many local and international organizations. Researches and studies have proved that the best way to preserve historical buildings and to safeguard their maintenance is to reinvest and renew their utilization. The aim is to preserve these buildings and protect their income to cover the expenses of maintenance by caring for the buildings and the surrounding urban environment.

The proposal discussed at the end must be the start for innovative and relative ideas for reusing Abu Qir forts. Architects must join different specializations to register and list these valuable irreplaceable assets locally and internationally before they are demolished by neglecting.

Communities that preserve their historic resources for adaptive reuse reap great economic benefits, and revitalization as the inherent integrity of historic resources builds a unique and evocative sense of place to which people are naturally

drawn to live, work and play [13]. The creative reuse of existing resources also has the advantage of built-in community acceptance, avoiding the opposition-related delays often faced by new construction. Tailor-made solutions cannot for the most part be expected; rather, every fortress requires individual consideration and an individual approach.

Actions have to be made for the improvement of this area to become attractive place and to attract people to come. These are:

- **Accessibility to the forts.** Conservation of the forts in Abu Qir is one of the elements in the revitalization program. It maintains and reconstructs most of the old buildings within this area. It will also consider re-function of the old building and unoccupied buildings to become commercial areas, such as shopping centres, hotels, cafés, restaurants, museums and historic exhibitions.
- **Benefit the society:** the project will be designed consecutively in order to easily access the use of all culture assets. All of them are linked through pedestrian, bicycle and car lanes to ease their use by the inhabitants and tourists. This project will enhance economy in this part of the city and will develop community identity illuminating poverty and slum areas.
- **Creating urban Square.** An open space located in front of forts can create various attractive activities and comfortable place for people to stay. This can encourage the number of visitors to come to this area.
- **Developing Waterfront Area. Waterfront Area.** The public facility is developed along the water front area. It can encourage the study area to become attractive and liveable. The creation of new activities can be done by developing market, outdoor café and shop lot, which can attract people to come and enjoy staying in.
- **Setting up Accessibility Facility.** The improvement of accessibility facility makes for an easy access of people to this area. Combine the rehabilitation of old buildings with the upgrading of the local infrastructure and service provision, the modernization of networks and re-vamping of public spaces. These facilities are pedestrian walk, street and public transportation. Also, separation between street and pedestrian walk make comfortable and safe travel for people in the study area. The redevelopment needs to focus on the comfort and safety of disabled people facility.
- **Creating Public Places.** Creating public places is considered essential to the functioning of the historic area and tourist places, it must be a main focus in its development. Public place is not just an open space, but also the place to facilitate the activity of visitors, it must be an attractive place to support people to come and enjoy staying in. Public places also can provide various activities in this area.
- **Creating new Activities.** Create new activities in the study area relating to the social and economic activity. The improvement and enhancement of the activity have purpose to increase the attractiveness of the study area. Study and understanding the people activities and economic sector are important in redevelopment and revitalization of the historic area, which will improve the area to become attractive and liveable.
- **Identifying Roles and responsibilities:** Clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders involved in urban rehabilitation (especially municipalities); define and strengthen the powers to intervene and

enforce relevant rules and regulations by the cultural heritage authorities. Establish one or several bodies at the territorial level (communal and inter-communal), under public control, to ensure institutional and operational coordination between the different stakeholders working in urban rehabilitation of the historical area.

- **Grants and incentives:** Grant legal status to inventories and systemize the archiving of forts documentation. Recommend programs for maintenance and preventive conservation. Promote and encourage mixed-used functions and more inclusive habitation in historic quarters and cities through the re-use of ancient buildings. Support the creation and use of financial support for rehabilitation in the form of financial incentives and other fiscal benefits in order to encourage urban rehabilitation for the benefit of the local population. Initiate pilot projects addressing urban rehabilitation, and specifically urban adaptations for contemporary use. Promote capacity building and training for professionals engaged in urban rehabilitation focused on the design, implementation and monitoring of urban rehabilitation initiatives as well as through the publication of relevant technical guides.
- **Public Awareness:** Organize periodic workshops aimed at assessing the results of urban rehabilitation activities, using relevant quantitative and qualitative evaluation criteria. Promote international cooperation and strengthen links with the specialized international organizations. Conduct public awareness campaigns and training and capacity building programmes, targeting elected officials, social actors as well as the general public. Seek to embed urban rehabilitation projects within the broader context of urban planning initiatives at the territorial level with a view to promoting an ongoing strategy for urban rehabilitation.
- **Culture sustainable tourism:** Create a cultural hub in order to gather all the activities in one node either on land assets or submerged .
- Consider each intervention in the area of urban rehabilitation as part of broader social policy that priority the interests of people living in these areas, most particularly in terms of housing. Involve local inhabitants in all stages and processes of urban rehabilitation activities through genuine public participation.

6. CONCLUSION

Creating new activity can improve and enhance Abu Qir development. This will be considered in the concept and its function as a public place, which will provide recreation and entertainment, and have various activities such as educational, art, culture, urban heritage and creative community. It can cause this area to become an attractive and livable place. Revitalization is a process of the development program in a city or an area, which is provided and set up by the Local Government, public and private sector. Its aim is to redevelop the area and include environmental facility and stimulate the economic sector.

However, tourism can have positive attributes for conservation and development in heritage places. The principal goal for sustainable planning is to create a strategy for minimizing the adverse impacts and maximizing gains from tourism. This would have to include the management of the cultural resources and the quality of new development, the uses and

activities the built environment sustains, and the integration of both these factors with the socio-cultural and socio-economic needs of the local community. Integration and diversity of cultural assets to create a cultural heritage accessible and usable for all is the key to create tourist destination.

Finally, the revitalization should point out physical and non-physical elements, because both elements have interaction

in terms of depth study of historic area. The recognition and understanding of attraction activity and public facility which need to be provided will be the main focus in the redevelopment and revitalization of a historic area as a public and tourism place. The methodology could be replicated with other similar regions in the Mediterranean basin suffering from the same limitations.

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Abstract

Abu Qir Bay region in the eastern part of Alexandria is a promising site that needs to be developed in order to compete in the touristic map of Alexandria, Egypt. This coastal zone can be an axis for development hosting important distinguished fortresses that may form attraction poles for internal and external tourism.

Historic buildings help define the character of our communities by providing a tangible link with the past. Fortresses and fortifications are as old as the history of mankind itself. Reinvesting and renewed utilization of old historical buildings can cover the expenses of maintenance and enhance the surrounding urban environment.

Even though, this area is one of the most crowded places with lack of facilities; this area deserves to be developed with its unique architecture style represented in its fortresses and eco tourism assets. Revitalization with the proper guidelines can revive the architectural old buildings and their surrounding environment to create sustainable tourism and economy development.

Streszczenie

Region Zatoki Abu Kir we wschodniej części Aleksandrii jest obszarem o dużym potencjale inwestycyjnym, który może stać się istotnym punktem na turystycznej mapie Aleksandrii. Ta nadbrzeżna strefa może stanowić oś rozwoju, jako miejsce, gdzie znajdują się unikalne fortece, które mogą stać się atrakcyjnymi obiektami dla turystyki krajowej i zagranicznej. Te historyczne budowle nadają charakter naszym społecznościom jako namacalne łączniki z przeszłością. Fortece i umocnienia są tak stare jak sama historia ludzkości. Nowe inwestycje i sposoby wykorzystania zabytkowych budowli mogą pokryć koszty ich utrzymania i podnieść rangę otaczającego je środowiska miejskiego.

Chociaż obszar ten jest jednym z najbardziej zatłoczonych i pozbawionych infrastruktury, zasługuje on na zagospodarowanie dzięki swemu wyjątkowemu stylowi architektonicznemu, jaki reprezentują fortece, oraz atutom eko-turystycznym. Rewitalizacja przeprowadzona zgodnie z właściwymi wytycznymi może ożywić architekturę starych budowli i ich otoczenia, tak by spowodować zrównoważony rozwój turystyczny i gospodarczy.