



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

### **Davit Gareji – Multidisciplinary Study and Development Strategy**

**April 18, 19, 20, 2019**

The monastery complex of David Gareji, founded in the 6th-century by one of the thirteen Assyrian fathers, Saint David Garejeli and his disciples, presents one of the unique sites of Georgian Cultural and Natural Heritage. The site is comprised of more than twenty rock-hewn monasteries and several hundreds of sanctuaries and cave-cells located in Eastern Georgia, on the semi-desert Iori plateau and partly extends into neighboring Azerbaijan. The monastery complex is registered as a Monument of National Importance of Georgia, in 2007 was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, and listed among the 7 Most Endangered heritage sites in Europe in 2018, a programme run by Europa Nostra, Pan-European Federation of Cultural Heritage Organizations, with the European Investment Bank Institute as founding partner.

## PROGRAMME

### **Thursday, April 18, 2019**

Venue: Georgian Museum of Fine Arts “Art House”, Conference Hall  
7 Shota Rustaveli Avenue, Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia

09:30- 10:00 **Registration**

10:00- 10:20 **Welcome Speeches**

**Salome Zourabichvili**, President of Georgia

**Michael Giorgadze**, First Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport

**Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, Secretary General of Europa Nostra

**Abba Alaverdeli Metropolitan David (Makharadze)**, Georgian Patriarchy

**Nikoloz Antidze**, General Director of National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

**Zviad Gabisonia**, General Durector of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia

**Maka Dvalishvili**, Country Representative of Europa Nostra in Georgia, Director of the Georgian Arts and Culture Center.

## Key Note Speeches

- 10:20- 10:40 **Zaza Skirtladze**, Institute of Art History and Theory, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Gareji Studies Center, (GE)  
*Gareja Desert Monasteries Through the Ages: Historical and Cultural Aspects*
- 10:40-11:00 **Piet Jaspaert**, Europa Nostra Vice President (BE)  
*David Gareji, One of the 7 Most Endangered Sites of Europe*
- 11:00- 11:20 **Coffee Break**
- 11:20-12:40 **Europa Nostra/EIB Institute Mission Report**
- 11:20-11:45 **Campbell Thomson**, European Investment Bank –Institute (UK)  
Europa Nostra and EIB Institute Mission Outputs – *David Gareji Development and Sustainability Strategy*
- 11:45-12:10 **Gaiane Casnati** – Europa Nostra Council Member (IT)  
Europa Nostra and EIB Institute Mission Outputs – *Recommendations and Inputs for Preservation and Enhancement*
- 12:10-12:20 **Questions and Answers**
- 12:20-14:00 **Session I. Site Management and Preservation**
- Moderator:** **Maka Dvalishvili**, Europa Nostra Representative in Georgia,  
Georgian Arts and Culture President
- 12:20-12:40 **Tamar Meliva, Manana Vardzelashvili**, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (GE)  
*World Heritage Tentative List Georgia: David Gareji, Challenges and Opportunities*
- 12:40-13:00 **Yunis Nasibov**, Historian, "Kashikchidak" Site Employer, Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan (AZ)  
*The Christian Rock Monuments of Kashikchidakridge; Achievements, Challenges and the Ways of Safeguarding and Promotion.*
- 13:00-13:20 **Mzia Gabunia, Jentje Van Der Weide**, Georgia's Protected Areas Program (NGO), Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. (GE/NL)  
*Fundamentals of Environmental Planning and Management of the David Gareji Proposed Protected Landscape*
- 13:20-13:40 **Lado Mirianashvili**, "Udabno" Science Fund (GE)  
*The Delimitation and Demarcation Problems of the Georgian-Azerbaijan Border and Possible Solutions*
- 13:40-14:00 **Discussion**
- 14:00-15:00 **Lunch**

**15: 00-17:00 Session I.II. Site Management and Preservation**

Moderator: **Tamar Meliva**, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

15:20-15:40 **Mikheil Elashvili, Nikoloz Vacheishvili, Giorgi Basialaia, Davit Chkhaidze, Davit Kvavadze, Luka Adikashvili, Akaki Nadaraia, Giorgi Kirkitadze, Tea Munchava**, Ilia State University (GE)

*Complex Environmental Monitoring and Study of Rock Cut Monuments in Georgia – Gareja Monitoring and Preservation Concept*

15:40-16:00 **Daniele Spizzichino, Claudio Margottini, Giovanni Gigli and William Frodella, Stefano Alberti, Andrea Valagussa and Giovanni Crosta**, UNESCO Chair at Florence University; Maeci - Embassy of Italy in Egypt; ISPRA - Geological Survey of Italy; UNIFI – University of Florence; Ilia State University; University of Milano-Bicocca, (IT)

*Instability Processes Affecting the Rupestrian Monastery Complex Area of David Gareja*

16:00-16:20 **Nana Kuprashvili, Alexander Rubashvili, Salome Akhalashvili, Tamar Liluashvili**, Tbilisi State Academy of Arts (GE)

*Diagnostic Study and Emergency Stabilization of Murals at Dodorka Monastery, Church of St. Demetrios of Thessaloniki*

16:20-16:40 **Discussion**

16:40- 17:00 **Coffee Break**

**17:00-18:20 Section II, Natural Heritage of David Gareji**

Moderator: **Mzia Gabunia**, Georgia’s Protected Areas Program, Tbilisi State Academy of Arts

17:00-17:20 **Maia Bukhsianidze**, Georgian National Museum (GE)  
*Terrestrial Fossil Record from the Territory of the David Gareja Monastery Complex*

17:20-17:40 **Nikoloz Lachashvili, Konstantine Kereselidze**, Ilia State University, Botanical Institute(GE)  
*Floristic and Ecosystem Diversity in the David Gareji Protected Landscape*

17:40-18:00 **Mikheil Elashvili, Darejan Kldiashvili**, Ilia State University, Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts (GE)  
*Earthquakes on the Territory of Davit Gareji Desert According to the Historical Sources*

18:00-18:20 **Discussion**

**Cultural Program**

**20:00** Visit to Art Palace of Georgia, State Museum of Theatre, Music, Cinema and Choreography, European Heritage Awards/ Europa Nostra Award winner.

**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Address: Georgian National Museum, Auditorium

1 A. Purtseladze Str., Tbilisi, 0105, Georgia

09:30- 10:00     **Registration**

10:00- 11:30     **Section III.I. Historic, Cultural and Art Historian Aspects of the David Gareji Monastery Complex**

Moderator:     **Ori Soltes**, George Town University

10:00-10:20     **Giorgi Tcheishvili**, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (GE)

*David Gareji Historical Geography- Past and Present*

10:20-10:40     **Shota Matitashvili**, Tbilisi State University (GE)

*On the Earliest History of David-Gareja Monastery: From the Anachoretic Community Towards Hybrid Laura*

10:40-11:00     **Zurab Tvalchrelidze, Nikoloz Murgulia**, The Medieval Cultural Heritage Centre of the Georgian National Museum (GE)

*Archaeological Study of the Gareja Monastic Association: Results and Prospects*

11:00-11:20     **Musa Mursagulov**, Head of the State Historical-Cultural Reserve "Keshikchidag"(AZ)

*Keshikchidag Caves Complex*

11:20-11:40     **Discussion**

11:40-12:00     **Coffee Break**

12:00- 13:30     **Section III.II. Historic, Cultural and Art Historian Aspects of David Gareji Monastery Complex**

Moderator:     **Nato Tsintsabadze**, ICOMOS Georgia

12:00-12:20     **Joseph Patrich**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, (IL)

*The Predecessors of David Gareji: The Monastic Habitate in Egypt, Sinai, Palaestina, Syria*

12:20-12:40     **Veronica Kalas**, New York University (USA)

*The Byzantine Rock-Carved Complex of Selime Kalesi in the Peristrema Valley, Cappadocia and Connections to Medieval Georgia*

12:40-13:00     **Ori Z Soltes** , Georgetown University (USA)

*Monasticism and Art: from David Gareji to Niko Pirosmiani within the Georgian Ethos*

13:00-13:10     **Discussion**

**16:30 - 18:30** Europa Nostra in Georgia, Awards Ceremony for the European Heritage Award/  
Europa Nostra Awards and 7 most Endangered programme.  
Tbilisi Opera and Ballet State Theater, Honorary Reception  
*For Details See the Program*

**Saturday, April 20, 2019**

**A. Onsite Visit to David Gareji Lavra (Only for Registered Participants)**

09:00 -16:00, Mini-Buss will leave from the Hotel Astoria

**B. Panel Session III.III. Historic, Cultural and Art Historian Aspects of the David Gareji  
Monastery Complex**

Address: Georgian National Museum, Auditorium  
1 A. Purtseladze Str., Tbilisi, 0105, Georgia

**09:30- 10:00 Registration**

**10:00-12:30** Panel Session III.III. Historic, Cultural and Art Historian Aspects of the David  
Gareji Monastery Complex

Moderator: **Marina Bulia**, Giorgi Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art  
History and Heritage Preservation

**10:00-10:20** **Davit Lomitashvili, Liana Bitadze, Eliso Kvavadze, Ketevan Digmelashvili** ,  
Tbilisi State University, Georgian National Museum, National Agency for  
Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (GE)  
*Researching the Grave Found in the Chapel of the Natlismtsemeli  
Monastery*

**10:20- 10:40** **Nodar Bakhtadze, Bachana Gabekhadze, Giorgi Kurtanidze**, Georgian  
National Museum, Ilia State University (GE)  
*The Collection of Household Items Found in David Garejeli's Lavra in 2017*

**10:40-11:00** **Nana Burtchuladze**, Georgian National Museum (GE)  
*Painted Icons of St. David Garejeli in the Georgian National Museum*

**11:00-11:20** **Lado Mirianashvili**, "Udabno" Science Fund (GE)  
*Theological Content of a Mural in a Church of the Tetri Udabno Monastery  
of Gareji*

**11:20-11:30** **Discussion**

- 11:30-11:50 **Coffee Break**
- 11:50-14:10 **Section III. IV. Historic, Cultural and Art Historian Aspects of the David Gareji Monastery Complex**
- Moderator: **David Khoshtaria**, Giorgi Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation
- 11:50-12:10 **Davit Chikhladze**, Giorgi Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation (GE)  
*Architecture of the Dodorka Monastery of Gareji*
- 12:10-12:30 **Giorgi Gagoshidze**, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (GE)  
*Newly Revealed Domed Church at Dodorka Monastery and Similar Chapels in David Gareji*
- 12:30-13:50 **Marina Bulia**, Giorgi Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation (GE)  
*Vita Cycle of St Demetrius of Thessaloniki and His Holy Relics at Dodorka Monastery*
- 13:50-14:10 **Discussion**
- 14:10-15:00 **Lunch**
- 15:00-16:20 **Section III. V. Historic, Cultural and Art Historian Aspects of David Gareji Monastery Complex**
- Moderator: **Giorgi Gagoshidze**, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia
- 15:00-15:20 **Eka Tchkoïdze**, Ilia State University (GE)  
*The David Gareja Monastic Complex According to Georgian Hagiographic Texts*
- 15:20-15:40 **Nikoloz Zhgenti**, Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts (GE)  
*Identifying Neki and Daniel Nekis Dze (son of Neki), Authors of the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> cc. Scratched Inscription, made in the Davit Gareji Udabno Monastery's Martyrium and the Scratched Inscription of the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> c., made in the Annunciation Church*
- 15:40-16:00 **Temo Jojua**, Ilia State University (GE)  
*The Portrait of Arsen I Kolonkelisdze Chkondidel-Mtsignobartukhutsesi (1170s) at the Kolagiri Monastery of Gareji (Historical and Source Study Analysis)*

16:00-16:20 **Discussion**

16:20-16:40 **Closing Remarks**

**Piet Jaspaert**, Europa Nostra Vice President

**Maka Dvalishvili**, Europa Nostra Country Representative in Georgia,  
Director of Georgian Arts and Culture Center

17:30

**Georgian National Museum**

**Museum Visit and Closing Ceremony, Reception**

3, Rustaveli ave., Tbilisi, 0105, Georgia

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