



ΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΙΑ ΣΕΡΙΦΟΥ

Athens, March 23, 2024

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to you regarding the information we got through the Fb account page of the Urban Environmental Laboratory of the School of Architecture, NTUA, Athens (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/DvFCWxgwUPPfXYXk/?mibextid=WC7FNe>) about the proposal that was submitted in order to include Serifos, in particular the area of Mega Livadi and Koutalas, in the list of 2025 World Monuments Watch (WMW). The action is supported by the Greek TICCHI department, by the Laboratory of Local & Insular Development of the University of the Aegean, and by "Mega Livadi Association".

We would like to kindly inform your respectful World Monuments Fund - although we are not fully aware of the proposal submitted - that a very big area of Mega Livadi and Koutalas and the area in between the two villages, still belongs to the property of Société des Mines de Sérifos et de Spiliazeza au Laurium, the iron mining company that operated on the island of Serifos from 1880 until 1965. In 1982 all mineral rights were terminated, but the surface and property rights remain at the Société's ownership, as the company used to apply a specific condition for the lands that used to exploit; to first acquire them with the relevant notarial acts.

Over the past two years the company has come into new owners' hands. The new owners, being aware of the importance of the industrial cultural components in their possession, are carrying out the foregoing actions - while being consulted by the competent bodies (Greek Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment etc) - in order to protect and promote Serifos' mining cultural heritage. Up to now, reserving human and economical sources, the company has commissioned studies concerning:

- The preservation, protection, and restoration of the iron loading ladder of Mega Livadi
- The support, restoration and improvement of the side slopes of the loading platform to stop and prevent further erosion
- A Master Plan for the whole area of Mega Livadi and its transformation into an open-air museum
- Study and reconstruction of the thermal baths (thermo-metallic springs of Almyros) in the area of Mega Livadi
- The restoration of the company's buildings following the architectural patterns of the epoch in both Mega Livadi and Koutalas (ex Police Station and ex workers' houses)
- The survey of the whole network of mining galleries in SW Serifos, aiming at their maintenance and use either as exhibition areas or as innovative storage sheds of green energy.

Société des mines de Serifos et de Spiliazeza au Laurium SA

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- The preservation and conservation of the company's archive since 1880 (including maps of the old mines, statutes, 19th c. documents etc)

In the near future, parallel to the realization of the above, the company intends to:

- Found a Public Benefit Organization which will constitute a prestigious cultural heritage management body.
- Create a second open-air thematic park at Koutalas (where there are the remains of an iron ladder and its platform, a machinery building, warehouses, workers' houses) about the mining history of the island.
- Establish temporary exhibitions of contemporary art, installations, cultural events, concerts, theatrical performances, educational programs etc.
- Involve universities and researchers for the possible creation of a greater geopark in Serifos that will host workshops on metallurgy and archaeometallurgy, research missions, summer schools, conferences, educational tests-experiments etc.
- Create an underwater park, where both the submerged remains of prior loading ladders and submerged modern art can be visited

It is therefore clear that "the cultural heritage zone of 23 industrial monuments" proposed to your Fund for safeguarding, does belong to a registered company, is under legal ownership and is not made up of no man's lands.

Thanking you in advance for your attention, I remain at your disposal for any further information needed.

With kind regards,

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Head of Cultural Department
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