

ROSIA

MONTANA

The Clash Between Historical
Heritage and Regional
Development

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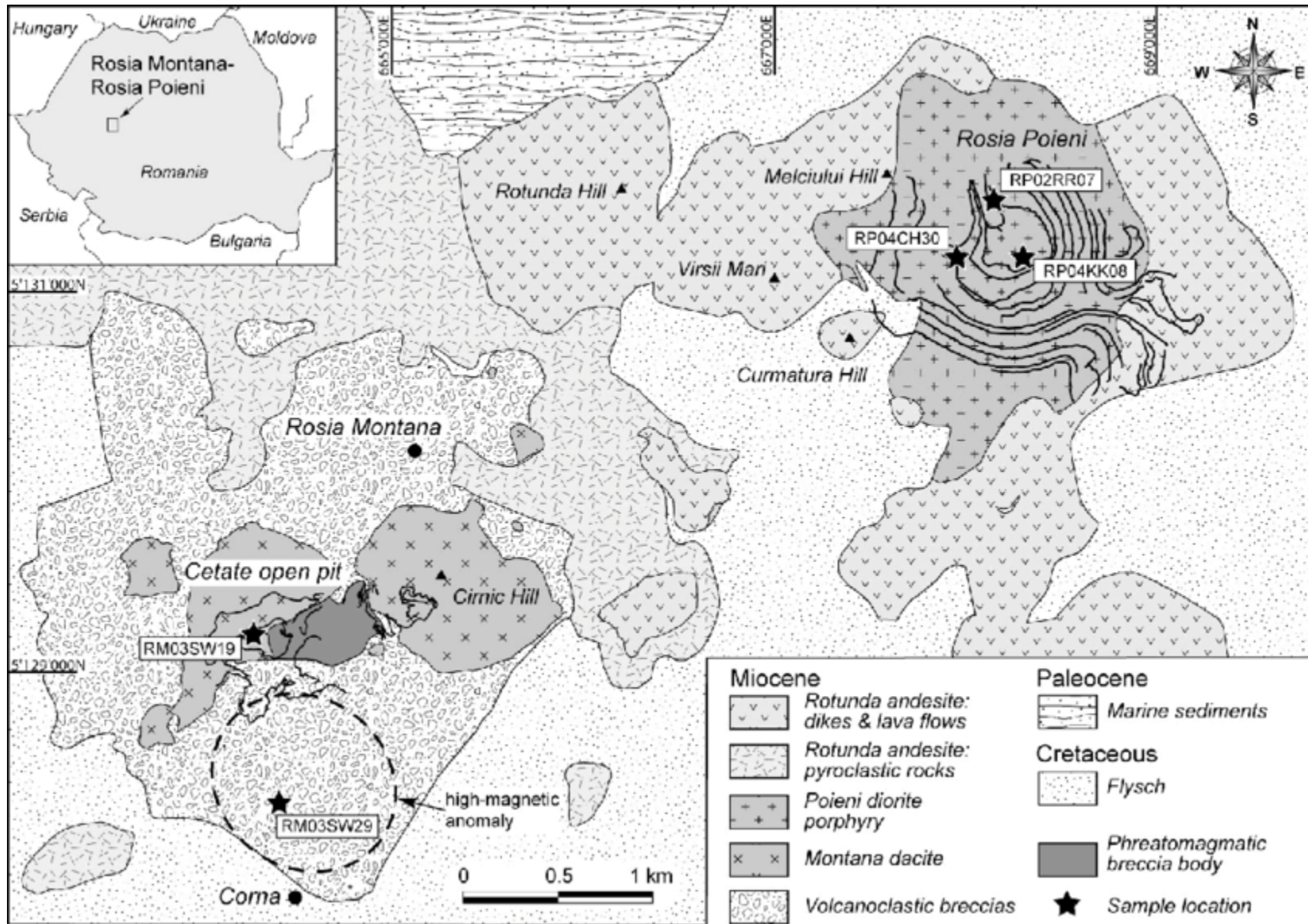


Fig. 1. A geological map of Rosia Montana



Fig. 2 (left). A photo of Roman mining tunnels

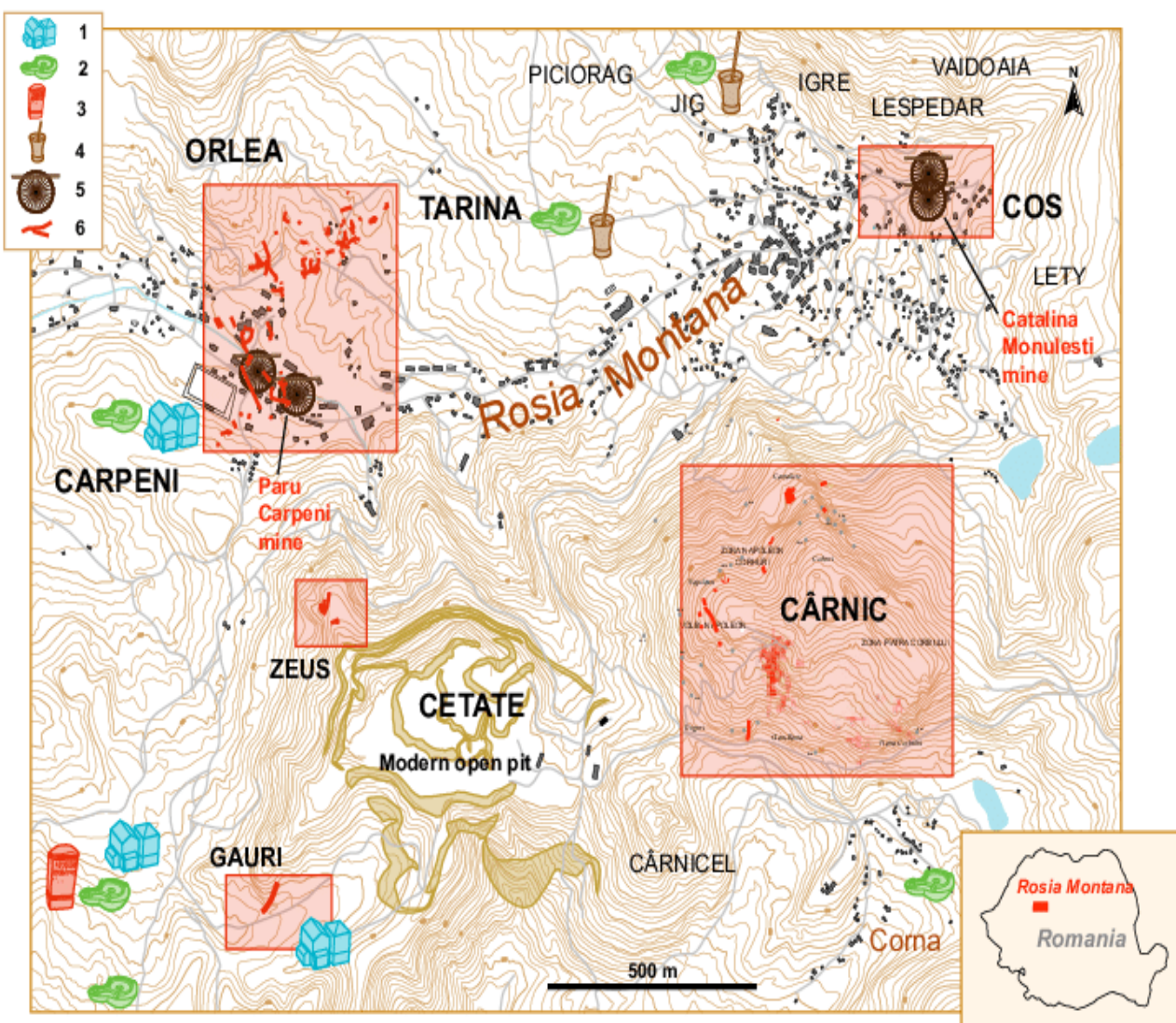


Fig. 3 (right). Archaeological findings at Rosia Montana

1- dwellings; 2- necropolis; 3- sanctuaries; 4- ore treatment workshops; 5- water wheel drainage systems; 6- underground mining works



Fig. 4. A photo taken at what is today The Revolution Square, in Bucharest, December 1989



Fig. 5. A photo taken during the "Mineriade", one of the bloodiest events after the 1989 Revolution.

Sides formed by the early 2000s around the controversy of Rosia Montana

Pro-mining side

- The President of Romania
- The Prime Minister of Romania
- The Minister of Economy
- The European Commission

Environmentalist side

- The Romanian Orthodox Church
- The Roman-Catholic Church
- The Romanian Academy
- Public and private universities
- NGOs



Fig. 8. A photo taken during a protest in Bucharest (2013). The main sign states: Rosia Montana- The Revolution of our Generation



Fig. 7. (Up) Photos showing the Geamana Lake/Village, close to Rosia Montana, next to the Rosia Poieni mine. An example of controlled waste management.

Fig. 8. (Right) After effects of the Baia Disaster (2000). The event was called in the press of the time as “The new Chernobyl”.



Opportunities and problems created by the project

Opportunities

- Job creation
- Exploitation of natural resources
- Local development (1+10)
- Influx of money for the Romanian Government

Problems

- The chance for a new “Dutch Disease”
- Limited local development (15 years)
- The destruction of an archaeological rich area
- Chances for a new disaster



Fig. 9. The modern, open-pit mine at Cetate.

The International Problem

- 2015- Gabriel Resources starts a trial against the Romanian Government
- 2016- The Government starts the process for the admission of Rosia Montana in UNESCO
- 2018- The Government stops the process for the admission in UNESCO
- 2020- The Government restarts the process
- 2023- Rosia Montana becomes part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site

Conclusions

- A local issue extended well beyond national borders.
- A developmental problem became legal, social, and political.
- The public, through some elected politicians, civic actions, and private enterprises managed to get itself involved in the effort to protect the historical richness of a region.