

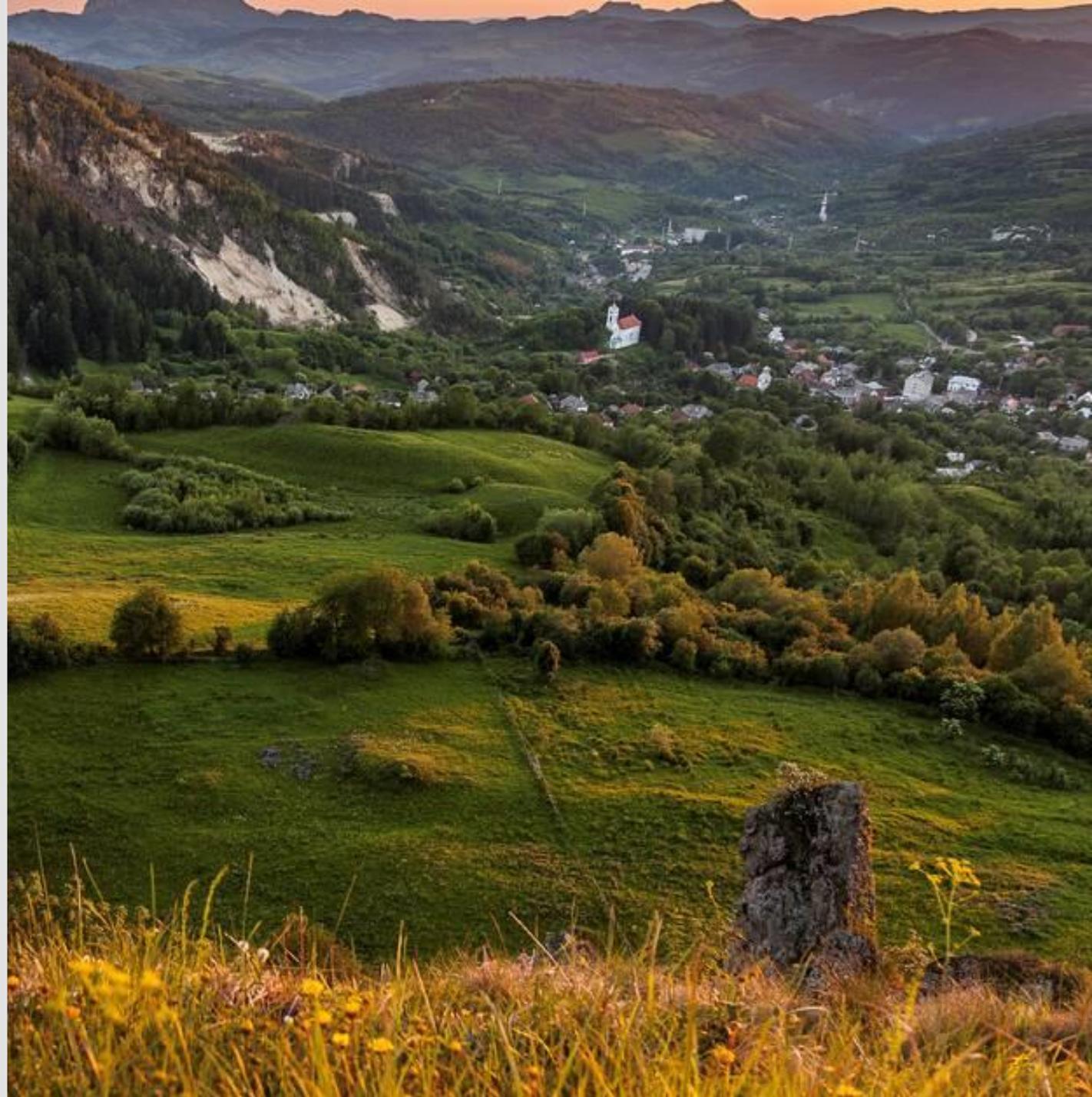
# ROSIA

# MONTANA

The Clash Between Historical  
Heritage and Regional  
Development

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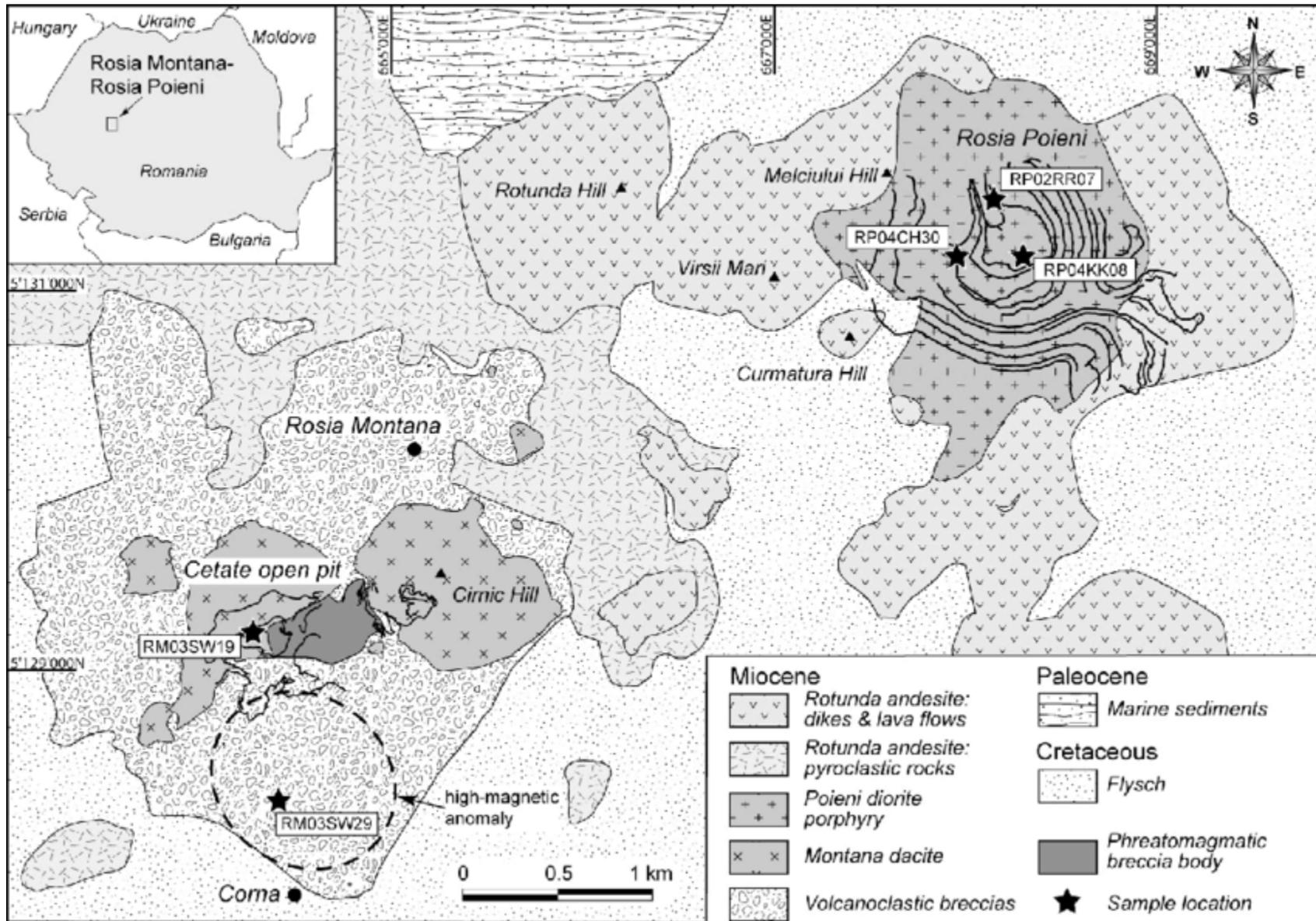


Fig. 1. A geological map of Rosia Montana



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

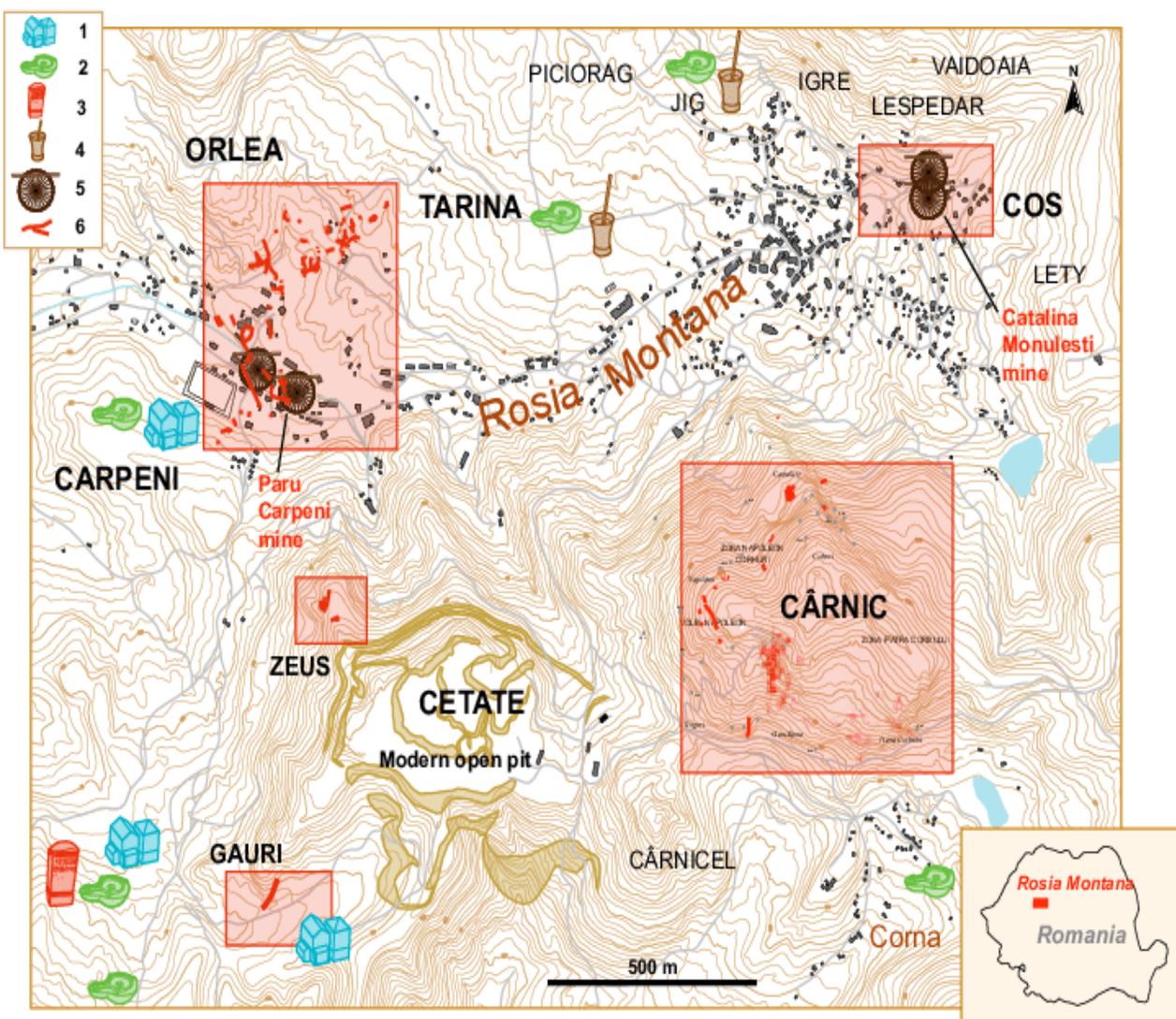


Fig. 3 (right). Archaeological findings at Rosia Montana

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.