

Brief information about the project

Name of the project	AP26100595 «Archaeological sites and cultural heritage of the Markakol cauldron pit: an interdisciplinary and comprehensive study»
Relevance	The project focuses on the archaeological monuments and artefacts along the shores of Lake Markakol, nestled in the high-altitude Kazakh Altai. By leveraging natural sciences in an interdisciplinary framework, this study aims to enhance the understanding of specific cultural values of the region. Unlike other archaeological sites, such as the frozen burial mounds of Berel where organic materials have been preserved without decomposition, the area under study has never undergone systematic archaeological excavation. Given the ongoing impacts of global climate change, which threaten the preservation of such cultural artefacts, this project is of urgent importance. The excavation and documentation of these sites may provide invaluable insights into the historical and cultural developments of the region, offering key data that could be lost if left unstudied. The project, therefore, represents a timely intervention to safeguard and study artefacts before they are further endangered by environmental changes.
Purpose	The primary objective of this project is to conduct a comprehensive search, recording, documentation, and interdisciplinary scientific research of archaeological monuments located in the extreme climatic conditions of the high-altitude Markakol Basin. Through these efforts, we aim to reconstruct the cultural values, identify the cultural connections, and study the economic and cultural traditions of the ancient and medieval populations of the region. This will be accomplished by comparing these findings with contemporaneous monuments in neighboring areas and integrating the results into the broader scientific discourse.
Objectives	The project aims to comprehensively study the ancient and medieval monuments located in the Markakol cauldron pit through an interdisciplinary approach, with the goal of reviving, learning, and promoting our national heritage. By focusing on the social development and formation processes of ancient and medieval nomads, the project establishes a sequence of interrelated tasks to achieve this. The following objectives are set: - Preparation of the source base for the study of archaeological monuments in the Markakol cauldron, located in the highlands of the Kazakh Altai: - To enhance the project database and obtain high-quality materials, comprehensive archaeological research will be conducted in the specified area with the participation of the research team members: - To establish the absolute dating of all monuments with a cultural layer, additional interdisciplinary research will be

	conducted in collaboration with specialists from diverse fields to gather the most comprehensive information possible. - Preservation of historical heritage and popularization.
Expected and achieved results	Expected results: A comprehensive effort will be made to collect, systematize, analyze, interpret, and summarize archaeological materials from the Markakol Basin, covering the period from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages. The study will lead to a detailed scientific report, articles, and reconstructions of funerary rites and the architectural features of various archaeological complexes. Extensive fieldwork will be undertaken to locate, document, and explore historical and cultural monuments within the Markakol Basin. This includes conducting excavations, creating passports for the monuments, and developing topographical plans and maps. Comprehensive and targeted excavations will be carried out at monuments from the Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, and Turkic periods, generating new archaeological materials. New data on petroglyphs in the Kazakh Altai will also be collected, systematized, and analyzed. Achieved results: Archaeological survey work was carried out in the Markakol Basin. As a result, previously unknown sites were discovered: the burial grounds of Bugymuiz I–II, Karakaba, Balykty-Bulak I, IV, Kereskiye I–II, Saty, Toskayin I–II, and Goncharenko. Each burial ground includes from 4 to 50 sites belonging to different periods. All sites have been recorded on the archaeological map and provided with coordinates. In addition, plans of the burial grounds were prepared and photographic documentation was completed.
Research team members with their identifiers (Scopus Author ID, Researcher ID, ORCID, if available) and links to relevant profiles	Omarov Gani Kalikhanovich <i>Scopus Author ID:</i> 57192670652 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wSULLeQqdg35VJcHxB3fRPLrtTu114gL/view?usp=drive_link <i>Researcher ID:</i> FRD-5650-2022 https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/26806043 <i>ORCID:</i> https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9142-8763 Konstantinov Nikita Alexandrovich <i>Scopus Author ID:</i> 56108268400 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RyVcL7o24COBee0ItVpoluJDUBKYpSp/view?usp=drive_link <i>Researcher ID:</i> C-1141-2013 https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/562152 <i>ORCID:</i> https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8897-8454 Besetayev Bauyrzhan Berkanovich <i>Scopus Author ID:</i> 57196189999 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sd6E9Of_fw0GTvw71McU_EtA65SL-O72/view?usp=drive_link <i>Researcher ID:</i> AAD-5984-2019 https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/2097955 <i>ORCID:</i> https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7993-5612 Shnaider Svetlana Vladimirovna <i>Scopus Author ID:</i> 56801877800

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Usage	The results of the research are used in the educational process for archaeological disciplines within the “Archaeology” academic program. The obtained results may also be used in the implementation of state policy in the field of protection of historical and cultural heritage.
Priority compared to real-world alternatives	There are no analogues
List of publications with links to them	Omarov G.K., Besetayev B.B. History of the Archaeological Study of the Markakol Region // Bulletin of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Series “History”. Almaty: Kazakh University, 2025. No. 4 (119). https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dabNWozNJYIsKmObHO3CZptGnZmtj3ln/view?usp=drive_link
Patents	no