

Brief information about the project

Name of the project	AP27511345 Archaeological landscapes of the Zaisan Basin: chronology, spatial analysis and economic systems
Relevance	The project is comprehensive in nature, aimed at the spatial analysis of archaeological complexes and landscapes. Research will allow to establish spatial connections between different types of archaeological monuments (settlements and burials; settlements and irrigation facilities; hillforts and small settlements, etc.), as well as their binding to certain landscape-topographic niches. Archaeology of Eastern Kazakhstan has historically developed as a "kurgan", settlement and other monuments of economic activity have been studied extremely poorly. Research on the project will help to fill this gap and provide new data on the structure of settlements, including urban settlements and agricultural monuments.
Purpose	The project aims to reconstruct historical and cultural processes in the Altai-Tarbagatai region by studying the formation of archaeological landscapes in the Zaisan Basin.
Objectives	1. Collection and systematization of available data. Published and archival materials will be analyzed. 2. Obtaining new materials during fieldwork. The experience of studying the antiquities of the Altai-Tarbagatai region allows us to identify the problem of uneven study of different types of monuments. Historically, researchers have focused on studying burial monuments, mainly kurgans of the Saka era. As a result, there is a lack of data on settlement and fortification sites, as well as other complexes related to economic activities. Therefore, it is planned to focus fieldwork on accumulating materials on these monuments. During the fieldwork, samples will be collected for natural science studies, and data on the spatial characteristics of the monuments will be accumulated. 3. Laboratory study of samples. Many issues related to the study of archaeological landscapes cannot be resolved without an interdisciplinary approach. Therefore, a combination of natural science methods will be used to date objects, as well as to identify the characteristics of economic activities and to reconstruct the use of the territory. 4. Synthesis of the obtained data. The obtained results will be summarized and collected in a single database and geoinformation system. This will allow us to draw conclusions about the patterns of formation and development of the archaeological landscapes of the Zaysan Basin. 5. Publication of the obtained results and promotion of scientific research. The intermediate and final results of the study will be introduced into scientific circulation in the form of publications and reports at scientific and practical conferences.
Expected and achieved results	Expected results for the entire project period: 1. Detailed information on the history of archaeological research in the vicinity of the Zaysan Basin and adjacent territories, as well as information on the known ancient monuments in the research area, will be collected.

	2. A comprehensive survey of a local area on the right bank of the Black Irtysh River in the Zaysan Basin will be conducted. 3. The dating of settlement-type monuments will be refined. 4. New data on economic-type monuments and the structure of settlements and hillforts will be obtained. 5. Based on the results of field research conducted as part of the project in the Zaysan Basin, 30 archaeological sites will be documented. 6. The following will be published: at least 1 (one) article or review in a peer-reviewed scientific journal indexed in the Social Science Citation Index and included in the 1 (first) or 2 (second) quartile by impact factor in the Web of Science database and (or) having a CiteScore percentile in the Scopus database of at least 60 (sixty) and at least 3 (three) articles and (or) reviews in a peer-reviewed foreign or domestic publication recommended from the lists 1 and 2 of the KOKNVO. Results achieved in the first year of the project implementation (2025): 1. Detailed information on the history of archaeological research in the vicinity of the Zaysan Basin and adjacent territories and information on the known ancient monuments of the research area have been collected. 2. A local area of the left bank of the Kalzhyr River (a right-bank tributary of the Black Irtysh River) has been surveyed 3. The dating of the Birzhan settlement and the Zhiniškesu settlement was established, and the chronology of the Kalzhyr and Sarizhyra settlements was clarified. 4. The plan of the monuments was taken, local excavation work was carried out, archaeological materials were obtained, and laboratory reports on the study of samples were received. 5. The complete fixation of 10 archaeological monuments was performed. 6. The manuscript of an article was prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
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Usage	The results of the project can be used in the implementation of state policy in the field of protection of historical and cultural heritage. in the educational process, when updating curricula in history and archaeology. It is also possible to use the results in the tourism sector when drawing up excursion routes.
Priority compared to real-world alternatives	The study focuses not just on individual archaeological sites, but on a comprehensive analysis of the archaeological landscapes of the Zaisan Basin. Unlike previous studies that primarily focused on burial complexes, this project encompasses all types of archaeological sites (settlements, hillforts, irrigation systems, and economic structures) and their spatial relationships. Additionally, the project incorporates GIS analysis and interdisciplinary methods, allowing for a more accurate reconstruction of the chronology of the sites and a comprehensive understanding of the settlement patterns.
List of publications with links to them	Omarov G.K., Besetaev B.B., Konstantinov N.A., Sagyndykova S.T. Results of archaeological research of the Altai archaeological expedition in 2024 y. // XVII Orazbayev readings: materials of the international scientific and methodological conference (Almaty, April 25-26, 2025) / responsible Ed. R. S. Zhumataev. Almaty: Kazakh University, 2025. pp. 9-17. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GFlrMnWGOpXH7sKYtyn03W32RVXDcwuG/view?usp=drive_link
Patents	no