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**Dance Events and Natural Environment: The Case of Holy Waters and Sacred  
Forests in Costi, N. Thrace.**

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**Abstract**

This study attempts to reveal that in the context of customary and religious behaviour in Costi, several dance performances realized in nature, the shear (sacred forests) and Agiasmata (sacred sources) that was dedicated to Saints Constantine and Helen. The material was collected by the method of oral history in conjunction with archival material and ethnographic data based on field observation. The oral testimonies came through discussions with the residents of the villages where the refugees settled in Kosti, based in memory of daily life. For the analysis of data oral testimonies were combined with written sources and relevant observations on the natural environment, based on fieldwork in Kosti. The conclusions from the data analysis show that the local community subsumed several dance performances to nature that was respected and protected by them, so they included it in their relationship with the worshiped Saints Constantine and Helen. The dance events that are realized in nature, the shear (sacred forests) and Agiasmata (sacred sources) contributed to the growing and developing a sense of naturalistic and "ecological character" to residents of the community.

Key words: Natural Environment, "sacred" forests, "holy" water, ecological integrity, ecological consciousness.