

## GREECE

### The Diolkos, Still Threatened by Erosion

The Diolkos, probably first built by Periander (625–585 BC), is an extraordinary paved path that enabled ships to be moved overland across the Isthmus of Corinth from sea to sea. Parts of the path on both banks of the modern Corinth Canal were exposed by excavations carried out between 1956 and 1962 and still show big stone blocks with grooves made by the wheels of the trolleys on which the Greek ships were loaded. Especially the western end of the Diolkos is threatened by erosion and decay. Since our last report (see *Heritage at Risk 2006/2007*, p. 74f.) the Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments finally seems to have done some conservation work. But the photos, again sent to ICOMOS by Sofia Loverdou, show that too little is still being done to prevent further decay at the western end, caused by the waves coming from the Corinthian Gulf.



The Ancient Diolkos in a state of decay (photos: S. Loverdou, 2009)