

ANNEXE 3

GUIDELINES OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Management and Conservation Plan for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

The Management Plan for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir aims to balance conservation, accessibility, sustainable economic use, and the interest and involvement of the local community¹. The plan was developed with the participation of all key stakeholders, who reached consensus about the plan's objectives and policies. A steering committee (annex one) representing all the stakeholders was established to draft the plan and gather the social and political support required to conserve this cultural landscape. The steering committee continues to oversee the management plan, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. It is committed to managing and safeguarding the various components of the property and securing its outstanding universal value. The committee will follow up by implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing the plan when needed.

Management structure of cultural heritage property in Palestine

The management of the cultural heritage property in Palestine is being implemented by the Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage (DACH), part of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, in accordance with the Jordanian Law of Antiquities number 51 (1966), which is the law currently in effect. According to this law, the responsibilities of DACH include the management and conservation of sites, setting protection policies, conducting excavations, raising public awareness, establishing museums, and cooperating with foreign archaeological institutions to ensure proper management and conservation of the property².

The law also grants the minister of tourism and antiquities and the director of the department of antiquities a wide mandate, enabling them to interpret the law, to identify archaeological sites, to make the final decision in disputed matters, to make lists of archaeological sites and artefacts, and to delineate the borders of archaeological sites.

The DACH consists of four main directorates headed by an assistant deputy minister. In each Palestinian governorate, the DACH has a regional office staffed with employees who manage and protect the archaeological sites in their governorate. The staff of the Bethlehem office is composed of archaeologists and conservation technicians.

Current legislation for the protection of cultural heritage

After the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in 1994, a presidential decree was issued. It reinstated all laws that existed prior the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land in June 1967. Accordingly, the Jordanian Law of Antiquities number 51 (1966) became effective in the West Bank and the British Mandate Law of Antiquities number 5 (1929) became effective in the Gaza Strip.

Cultural heritage legislation in Palestine consists of the following set of direct and indirect legislation:

Direct Legislation

Direct legislation refer to laws that include specific provisions related to the management and safeguarding of cultural heritage properties. They include the 1929 British Mandate law and the 1966 Jordanian antiquities law.

1 A steering committee composed of representatives of the eight families of Battir; the owners of the land located within the boundaries of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir; The Battir Village Council; representatives of local community institutions, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Bethlehem was put together to oversee the implementation of the management plan.

2 Article three from Law of Antiquities no. 51 (1966).

In 1966, The Law of Antiquities no. 51 replaced the 1929 Law, which is still in effect today in the Gaza Strip. The 1929 law only protected tangible heritage (movable and immovable objects and buildings that were constructed before the year 1700, and human and animal remnants predating 600 AD).

In 2003, a new Law for the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Resources in Palestine was drafted by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. This proposed law transcends the shortcomings of previous laws by replacing the conventional terms of “antiquities” and “historical buildings,” with “cultural heritage.” It also references all categories of cultural heritage resources, including archaeological sites, artefacts, cultural landscapes, etc., as well as specifying legal measures for conserving and safeguarding other components of cultural heritage. Finally, it defines the management roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders involved in the protection of cultural heritage properties. Although the new draft of the law has not been ratified by the Palestinian legislative council, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is revising the final version of this law to be approved by the president of Palestine and subsequently replace the old law.

The next pieces of direct legislation are the 2010 and 2006 bylaws for the protection of historical areas and buildings, which were adopted by the Ministry of Local Government and the High Planning Council in Palestine. These bylaws are considered part of the urban planning legislation regulating the development of urban cores and protecting historical centres and buildings in Palestine.

Finally, The Charter on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Palestine (The Palestine Charter) is a participatory measure that provides a national framework for the sustainable conservation and management of cultural heritage.

Indirect legislation

Some of the articles in other laws are relevant to the protection of cultural heritage. They include the following:

- The Palestinian Environment Law of 1999, article number 5, considers preserving cultural heritage sites to be one of the basic aims of the Palestinian environmental strategy. Article number 44 of the same law bans any activity or behaviour that might cause any damage to cultural heritage properties or disturb the aesthetic value of these sites (Palestinian Environment Law 1999).
- The 1966 Jordanian law, number 79, on the building and zoning of towns, villages, and buildings in the West Bank, stresses the importance of preserving significant archaeological and historical places, including buildings, structures, and caves (article number 19).
- Articles four and five of the 1966 Jordanian Tourism Law (number 45) gives responsibility for the protection, preservation, and development of cultural heritage sites to the tourism authority, which cooperates with the Department of Antiquities. It also specifies that the director of the Department of Antiquities should be a member of the council of tourism (articles 4 and 5).
- Article 5 of the 1964 Jordanian Law of Education, no. 16, considers the dissemination of Arabic and Islamic heritage as one of the main tasks of the Ministry of Education.
- The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir is protected by the continuous agricultural use of the land, especially because the farmers use traditional practices to cultivate their land. Moreover, Battir’s local population and authorities show a high degree of awareness about the great value and potential of their outstanding cultural landscape as a multifunctional and dynamic resource, and they have a clear understanding of the importance of maintaining and developing it within the framework of sustainable change.

Institutions involved in managing the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA) and the village council are the two main institutions managing the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir. In addition, there is a set of public and semi-governmental institutions associated with the management and conservation of the cultural landscape of Battir, including the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Environmental Quality, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Endowment (Waqif), and the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Bethlehem.

Conservation and management of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

For centuries, the conservation of cultural landscapes was in the hands of their inhabitants, who carefully maintained and used the landscape as their own resource. However, nowadays, the conservation of historical property requires highly specialised expertise to produce a set of effective tools that will enable the Palestinian national and local authorities to safeguard this outstanding landscape.

Furthermore, according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement which was signed on 28 September 1995 by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Israeli government, Battir and its surrounding cultural landscape were classified as Areas B and C. Area B includes the town and the populated areas surrounding it, while Area C is the open space around the periphery of the town.

Description and assessment of the state of conservation of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

The cultural landscape includes many significant ecological, agrarian, historical, and anthropological features. These features have great potential as resources for the sustainable development of this area. In terms of a SWOT analysis, they can be identified as points of internal strength and could provide the foundation for development projects based on cultural landscape conservation.

Strengths

The strengths of the property include the following:

- Historical agrarian landscape: dry-stone walls, stone watchtowers, irrigated agricultural terraces, vegetables (Battiri eggplant) and fruit orchards;
- Open spaces and open views: the scenic beauty of the valley, rich biodiversity, wild flora and arboreal vegetation, and panoramic views;
- Archaeological heritage: an ancient archaeological site (known as Khirbet Al-Yahoud), Roman pools and irrigation systems, caves, tombs, and ruins from the Canaanite, Roman, and Islamic periods;
- Traditional irrigation system: A set of traditional irrigation customs that were passed down verbally from one generation to the next, regulating the water use of the farmers for hundreds of years³. This system is one of the most unique traditional water distribution methods in Palestine. It includes the water distribution among farmers and the maintenance of the channel networks and reservoirs.
- Human resources: The local community assigns high socio-economic and cultural value to traditional agrarian practices, knowledge, and ability. The community has a high level of internal cohesion; a rich historical background; a dialogic, flexible, and open social framework; and collective memories preserved by local historians.
- Hydrography, geomorphology and geology: There is an abundance of springs and other water resources on the property. There is also the beauty of the jagged walls of the valley, unique geological formations, and the terraced landscape.

³ Tmeizeh, A., Water rights and uses in Midland Palestine, Bergen, BRIC, 2004, pp. 103-115.

Weaknesses and threats

The property is severely threatened by a number of factors. One of the biggest external threats facing this area is the Israeli occupation and its chronic repercussions on the integrity and functionality of the local economic, agricultural, environmental, and, socio-cultural systems. The distortions caused by the Israeli occupation have accelerated the processes of de-territorialisation de-localisation caused by the economic and cultural globalisation that have affected so many other rural places around the world. The globalisation process has led to a dramatic loss of income for traditional agricultural activities. The combination of these two macro-scale factors has negatively impacted local agrarian landscapes and progressively disrupted the inhabitants' sense of identity.

The main weaknesses of the property are summarised in the following points:

- The local population has little environmental awareness, especially the youth. This is largely due to the inhabitants' alienation from their territory, which has been primarily caused by the devaluation of agricultural activities. Thus, local inhabitants have found employment in sectors besides agriculture, and there is a high rate of unemployment. The lack of environmental awareness is also due to a lack of comprehensive environmental education and sensitisation in the area.
- There is an absence of governmental policy regarding sustainable landscape planning, environmental protection, and sustainable development, which has resulted in uncontrolled urban expansion and solid waste, and water, air and soil pollution.
- The local economy has stagnated due to the reduced freedom of movement of local people throughout the West Bank, and to the heavy limitations placed on trade and marketing of goods by the Israeli occupation.
- There has been a loss of popular forms of expression in the village, such as traditional songs and narratives. The creation and performance of these forms of expression was associated with agrarian activities and they carried intangible aspects of the social and collective memory of the land;
- There have been limitations and restrictions placed on the use of land in the area. There is a risk that Israeli forces will confiscate significant portions of the land.
- The property is currently severely threatened by the new plans for the construction of the Separation Wall, which was unilaterally approved by the Israeli government.

Management and conservation policies and strategies for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

This section introduces a set of management and conservation policies for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir. This Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) is based on the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, which has been used as a keystone for any conservation or management initiatives undertaken on the property. The MCP provides a blueprint and a common vision for the conservation and management process, stating clearly how the cultural heritage in the area can be coherently conserved and managed. The plan guides and steers decision-making and serves as a schematic blueprint for the common vision of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir. The MCP also specifies the most appropriate use of the cultural landscape, proper ways to conserve its significance, and alternative solutions for solving potential conflicts resulting from the different interests of various stakeholders. The policies cover physical conservation, interpretation, visitor use, on-going management and maintenance interventions, etc.

Aims and objectives of the management plan

The purpose of this management plan is to conserve and protect the cultural heritage and ecology of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir. More specifically, the objectives are as

follows:

- Implement interventions aimed at safeguarding the cultural landscape, as formulated in the Battir Cultural Landscape Conservation and Management Plan. This includes the conservation of dry-stone architecture, ancient irrigation systems, traditional agricultural practices, and the historical roads and pathways.
- Promote public and private partnerships and facilitate responsible entrepreneurship, while protecting local cultural identity. This can be done through the following strategies:
 1. Provide support to local authorities and create the conditions for long-term institution building.
 2. Reinforce technical skills and train local human resources for the management and administration of the cultural landscape, e.g. urban management, environmental recovery, cultural and agricultural practices, tourism management, and educational activities.
 3. Preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage by researching, cataloguing, and inventorying anthropological, historical, and environmental resources, e.g. a community map, an inventory of traditional practices, etc.
 4. Contribute to the empowerment of the communities in Battir and surrounding towns and villages through the promotion of cultural and ecological tourism.
 5. Practice better management and protection of the cultural landscape of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir and its tourism-related assets.

Main principles of the Management and Conservation Plan

To ensure the effectiveness of the conservation and management policies and strategies of the MCP, they are based on the following principles:

A) Principles of conservation and management policies

- Conservation is the overarching goal of any management or protection policy. It should be achieved through sustainable solutions to physical, social, and economic obstacles that might affect Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir.
- Preservation of cultural landscape components in situ must always be the preferred option.
- Comply with the four key principles of conservation, reversibility, minimum intervention, compatibility, and documentation.
- All policies should be based on the value of the property as a cultural landscape, which should be accepted to the owners and authorities who own and manage these sites.
- Attention should be paid to the needs and desires of the local community, especially those with a special interest in the sites.
- The interventions should be financially and technically feasible and economically viable.
- The policies should provide sustainable, long-term management and conservation solutions, rather than seeking immediate or reactive solutions.
- The policies should be sufficiently balanced and flexible to allow for a balance between stakeholder interests, improvement, and alterations.
- Finally, the policies should be based on empirical information systematically gathered from the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir without destroying any more than is absolutely necessary to attain the aims of the research.

B) Principles of the management and conservation strategies

The conservation and management policies for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir serve as a road map by which the conservation process will be implemented, taking into consideration the following principles:

- Any intervention should be minimal, reversible, and compatible with the significance of the site and its management and conservation policies.
- Physical interventions are often experimental with disastrous long-term consequences, especially if the applied solution demands overly elaborate maintenance and monitoring practices that require skills or tools that are not available locally or that cannot be guaranteed over the long-term.
- Thus, physical conservation solutions need to be approached with care, taking into account that the best solution is often the most minimal intervention possible.

Management, and conservation policies for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

The policies in this plan are consistent with international conventions and recommendations, including the World Heritage Convention (1972), ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (1987), the ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage (1990), the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (1966), and the Burra Charter (1979-1990).

This document recognises the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir as a fragile and non-renewable resource. Therefore, any physical intervention should maximise conservation opportunities, while mitigating the effects of unavoidable destruction or damage. The interventions should comply with the four key principles of conservation, reversibility, minimal intervention, compatibility, and documentation. These doctrines stress the importance of using holistic and integrated management and conservation plans to create sustainable cultural landscapes.

Based on an assessment, survey results, discussions and interviews with various stakeholders, and international and national conservation and management standards, this section draws up a set of management and conservation policies and strategies for the sustainable management and conservation of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir. The above mentioned principles are the heart of these policies.

Policy 1:

All types and levels of conservation interventions in the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir should be planned and implemented in line with the management and conservation policies, taking into consideration the four key pillars of conservation accepted worldwide: minimum intervention, reversibility, compatibility, and documentation.

To implement this policy and ensure sustainable management and conservation of this property, the following strategies will be used:

- a. Any initiative to conserve and revitalise the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir must be designed as a part of the management and conservation plan, and comply fully with its policies and principles.
- b. All conservation and research interventions, including restoration, maintenance, valorisation, and excavations, should be precisely and thoroughly documented with high scientific standards based on non-destructive techniques.
- c. The conservation of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir will be implemented with an integrated and multidisciplinary approach based on thorough documentation,

knowledge and scientific evidence. A conservation intervention should not be carried out in any other way. In many cases, non-intervention might be the appropriate preventive conservation method to preserve the original state of these sites until new archaeological evidence is found through further research.

- d. Any intervention in the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir should be sustainable and based on reversible, traditional techniques and materials, as far as it is possible. If modern techniques and materials are considered essential for substantial conservation of some sites, they should be reversible in their nature, proven to be compatible with the existing landscape, and appropriately assessed before application, taking into consideration the integrity and authenticity of the cultural heritage site in question.
- e. The quality of design and execution of all levels of conservation interventions should match international standards and be managed and accepted by all relevant stakeholders.
- f. Emergency preventive conservation measures, based on scientific analysis, assessment of conditions, documentation, and observations, should be developed to provide a thorough understanding of the speed of deterioration of the cultural landscape, and subsequently prevent any further damage to its features by using various reversible conservation and maintenance approaches and techniques, such as the maintenance of the dry-stone terraces.
- g. A reburial strategy for vulnerable materials should be used for excavated archaeological remains, especially where the cultural heritage remains are rapidly deteriorating and add little to a visitor's experience.
- h. The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir has to be permanently and systematically maintained, in order to keep its features in good condition and ensure the safety of the users of the property. Maintenance should be based on holistic strategies and programmes.
- i. All the features of the cultural landscape should be comprehensively documented. The documentation process should be conducted carefully and precede any conservation interventions undertaken on the property.
- j. A monitoring strategy for the maintenance of the property should be developed to provide systematic feedback on the impacts of conservation measures. This strategy should be based on an environmental assessment of the property, and on monthly, quarterly, and annual reports.
- k. Small cultural features that have not yet been investigated should not be considered as insignificant sites, but instead as unique sites with high potential of being significant. Any physical intervention or development activity undertaken should be properly evaluated and preceded by a thorough impact assessment.
- l. A conservation laboratory should be established in Battir to conduct needed research on a number of potential conservation materials, techniques, and approaches.
- m. A conservation manual should be developed for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir using a multidisciplinary approach. The manual will guide all management and physical conservation interventions on the property, taking into consideration that every site has its own unique physical, social, political, and financial context.
- n. Particular attention should be paid to the system of traditional paths (principal and secondary) running through the valleys and agricultural terraces. This system has to be restored in order to improve the accessibility of the areas.
- o. The property is covered with ancient olive trees, some of them growing on terraces and some of them enclosed by dry-stone walls. The traditional methods of growing olive trees should be protected and the terraces that have eroded should be rehabilitated with traditional materials (stones) and building methods. New materials and techniques, especially concrete blocks, cannot be used.
- p. The traditional water rights and irrigation customs and the irrigation structures should be preserved through sustainable interventions.

Policy 2:

The vernacular architecture of Battir should be sustainably conserved and revitalised according to the urban regulation plan and through the creation of new economic and social incentives that encourage residents and the private sector to rehabilitate buildings instead of demolishing them.

To safeguard the vernacular architecture of Battir for future generations, the following strategies are proposed:

- a. Integrate the management and conservation plans of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir with the urban regulation plan for Battir. This integration should take into consideration the local economic and social dynamics, thus balancing conservation and new infrastructure.
- b. The cultural heritage sites of Battir should not be condemned, destroyed, or stripped of their authentic functions or architectural components, including original windows, doors, and roofs.
- c. The village council of Battir has to develop new building codes, taking into consideration the unique significance of the village's traditional stone buildings and other architectural and agricultural landmarks designated as part of this unique cultural landscape. These codes should also include clear specifications for various alterations to existing and new buildings, e.g. building heights, shop fronts, fencing, building materials, and street furniture.
- d. Any new infrastructure or superstructure constructed on the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, such as paved roads, public lighting, signage, or street furniture, should respect the existing character of the area, and be based on cultural landscape and environmental assessments to minimise any potential negative impact on the cultural landscape.
- e. The current and planned road network in Battir should be reassessed to avoid potential damage to the cultural landscape, especially the agricultural terraces and dry-stone walls.
- f. Boundaries and buffer zones for the heritage sites should be delineated and enforced through land-use zoning, taking into consideration the long and complex history of human activity in this area.
- g. The property should be conserved in order to safeguard and understand its diversity, integrity, and cultural context.
- h. The Ministry of Tourism and Agriculture and the Battir Village Council should inventory and assess the agricultural terraces and dry-stone landscapes in order to prioritise protection, conservation, and renovation interventions.

Policy 3:

Conserve the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir as a unique cultural property, including its caves, cliffs, springs, aqueducts, dry-stone masonry, historical buildings, archaeological sites, ancient roads, monumental trees, etc.

The following strategies are proposed to implement this policy:

- a. Integrate the conservation of the property with national and local cultural, educational, and economic strategies.
- b. Ensure that new houses and buildings fit harmoniously with the property's cultural heritage. It is important that any new construction fits into the traditional context, especially within or near the protected property.
- c. In cooperation with the village council other stakeholders, designate core and buffer zones to conserve the cultural heritage on the property by imposing land-use restrictions in these areas.
- d. Implement high-quality, sustainable development and activities within the protected buffer zone based on a holistic archaeological and environmental impact assessment. Residents should be encouraged to enhance and sustain the human and cultural dynamics inside these zones, which will contribute to preserving the intrinsic character of the property.
- e. The cultural landscape surrounding Battir should be protected from any negative side effects

from chemical pesticides from nearby farms. This strategy should be undertaken in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and farmers themselves by developing organic alternatives to pesticides and other solutions;

- f. The footpaths used for agriculture and tourism should be redefined, classified, and rehabilitated. These paths are necessary to move through the property, especially when travelling through the terraced slopes.

Policy 4:

Any new archaeological excavations in the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir should be as minimal as possible while still achieving necessary research objectives. The excavations should utilise non-destructive techniques as much as possible, and be accompanied by conservation, interpretation, and publication plans.

To implement this policy, the following strategies are proposed:

- a. New archaeological research is allowed only if it is based on a comprehensive research plan consistent with applicable conservation and management policies, the research plan should include conservation and interpretation programmes for artefacts found during excavations.
- b. Whenever archaeological excavations are undertaken, they should involve non-destructive methods and techniques, such as remote sensing, geophysical surveys, aerial surveys, oral evidence, etc. Those in charge of the excavation should not destroy any more heritage evidence than is necessary for the fulfilment of scientific objectives.
- c. Archaeological artefacts should not be left exposed to potential damage after being excavated. Unverified features or parts, which cannot be presented to visitors or maintained properly, should be reburied, as in the case of fragile mosaic floors, until the appropriate management and conservation solutions are found and put in place.
- d. Salvage excavations should precede any development project or any alteration of the land.
- e. The costs of archaeological work necessitated by development projects are a legitimate part of the development costs themselves. This includes the costs of undertaking archaeological and environmental impact assessments, excavations, and any other mitigating measures necessary to conserve or relocate any of the archaeological components in question.

Policy 5:

The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir should be holistically and meaningfully interpreted and presented to visitors and the local community alike.

The property suffers from poor presentation and interpretation. Communication materials should be developed using the following strategies:

- a. The interpretation and presentation of the property should emerge from a holistic interpretive approach designed for the entire area, and should be based on effective engagement of related stakeholders.
- b. The interpretation should be based on the cultural values of Battir, and should be conveyed to visitors through the use of modern technologies, databanks, information systems, and virtual presentation techniques.
- c. Both the walking routes within the property and the capacity of local tour guides should be enhanced.
- d. New modes of presentation and interpretation should be developed, such as an interpretation centre, museum, informational signs, attractive written materials, audio-visual presentations, 3D models, etc.

Policy 6:

Those working on projects associated with the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir should receive systematic technical and management training in cooperation with related national and international institutions, such as ICCROM and ICOMOS.

The aim of this policy is to train competent professionals, staff, and volunteers to conserve and manage the property by adopting the following strategies:

- a. Provide systematic training programmes to reinforce the local capacity of professionals, staff, and volunteers working on projects related to the property, including management, restoration, documentation, maintenance, interpretation, education, etc.
- b. Begin building management and conservation capacity in Battir by conducting a careful assessment of key professions and skills, and initiating the technical training programmes needed for future conservation activities.
- c. Recruit qualified employees to manage and conserve the cultural landscape from the local communities, as far as it is possible, and provide them with necessary technical and professional training.
- d. Provide formal vocational tourism training in Battir for tourism related services, including guiding, marketing, hospitality skills, etc.

Policy 7:

Update the management and legislative frameworks regarding cultural heritage and tourism, so that they are comprehensive, flexible, and reflect the richness and diversity of Palestinian cultural landscapes.

The following strategies should be used:

- a. The scope of any new law should cover all components of cultural landscapes from prehistory until the present time, taking into consideration the provisions of the World Heritage Convention.
- b. Different degrees of legal protection should be given to different classes of cultural landscapes, according to their significance.
- c. Any new cultural heritage law should include clear provisions requiring restitution for movable artefacts that were illegally taken from the Battir area.
- d. The available tourism law should be amended so that it supports cooperation between all relevant public institutions, and outlines the powers and responsibilities of the public and private sectors, as well as controlling the development and operations of tourism related enterprises in a more integrated and sustainable manner.

Policy 8:

Promote public awareness of the importance of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir by developing sustainable outreach strategies and programmes.

To do so, the following strategies are proposed:

- a. The property should be promoted as an integral part of the socio-economic context of Battir and surrounding communities. This can be done through using various outreach techniques, such as leaflets, lectures, site visits, etc.
- b. Engaging information on the property should be distributed to national media and used in the school curriculum to increase the awareness of the importance of this unique cultural landscape. This could be initiated by organising workshops on the value of the cultural landscape of Battir for schoolteachers and providing them with information.
- c. Organise a series of seasonal cultural activities on the property to demonstrate its cultural value and promote the intangible cultural heritage of the local community of Battir.

Policy 9:

The tourism infrastructure of Battir should be developed to cater to various visitor categories, taking into account the vulnerability of the surrounding cultural landscape.

The current tourism services in Battir are insufficient and can't meet the needs and expectations of tourists. Thus, the following strategies are recommended:

- a. Upgrade the tourism related infrastructure in a sustainable way so that it's compatible with the rest of the cultural landscape.
- b. Prioritise safety when developing tourism facilities and services, for example, ensuring that the hiking trails are safe.
- c. Distribute tourism related facilities more widely across the property to increase their economic impact on various sectors of the local community. The distribution of these facilities should be based on a comprehensive needs assessment and consultation with the local private sector and the village council.
- d. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, in cooperation with other concerned stakeholders, especially the village council, should ensure that development of various tourism facilities are well integrated with the rest of the property.
- e. Sustainable tourism infrastructure should be included in any related public works and well coordinated with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and other related stakeholders.
- f. Encourage high quality and environmentally friendly communications about the property that are responsive to the needs of the tourism sector.
- g. Ensure that an environmental impact assessments (EIA) is conducted for each new tourism-related project.

Policy 10:

Adopt an integrated approach to the conservation of the cultural landscape and the development of tourism services based on the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, organisations, and local community members, with the goal of balancing the needs of all the various actors.

The following strategies should be adopted:

- a. Income generation and job-creation activities should be initiated with the goal of encouraging the residents of Battir to set up community-based organisations.
- b. The community of Battir should be the primary beneficiary of any tourism related activities. Local residents should be prioritised in any training, employment generation, or other type of economic activity relevant to tourism development in the area.

Policy 11:

The urban environment of Battir and the surrounding cultural landscape should be cleaned and beautified to making them more attractive to tourists.

The following strategies are recommended:

- a. The village centre should be equipped with better urban amenities, footpaths, and appropriate transportation networks. Developments such as these are prerequisites for developing Battir as an attractive tourism destination for both local and international tourists.
- b. Beautification projects should be undertaken in the village of Battir, such as improving street infrastructure, signage, pavement, and access and egress roads.
- c. Informational signs should be posted and standardised both inside and along the roads leading to the property through collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the village council of Battir, and the Ministry of Transportation.
- d. Attention should be given to the cleanliness of the property. A new solid waste management system needs to be adopted that would be underpinned with social and public awareness

programmes to control random dumping. This initiative would enhance tourism as well as improving the living conditions in the village;

- e. Any amenities, such as parking lots, bus stops, benches, markets, sightseeing platforms, signposting, etc., must be compatible with the conservation and management plan.

Policy 12:

Develop new tourism products in Battir based on its remarkable cultural landscape and identity.

The following strategies are proposed:

- a. Enhance existing tourism products and supplement them with new products related to agro-tourism, eco-tourism, participatory tourism, etc.
- b. Diversify the tourism industry of Battir by promoting it as a hub of cultural tourism equipped with facilities such as restaurants, guest houses, safe and beautiful pedestrian footpaths, etc.
- c. Encourage national and local cultural groups, especially those in the performing arts, to schedule year-round artistic events and performances in Battir.

Policy 13:

Develop promotional and marketing materials to present the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir as an attractive and meaningful tourism destination.

The following initiatives from the public and private sectors are required to ensure Battir is a popular tourist destination:

- a. Promote the image of Battir as a cultural and eco-tourism destination.
- b. Create a holistic promotion and marketing strategy, based on quantitative and qualitative data.
- c. Develop new tourism packages to integrate the cultural landscape with tourism facilities and services.
- d. Allocate adequate public funds to create more effective promotion and marketing tourism strategies.
- e. Develop online marketing for the cultural landscape of Battir.

Policy 14: Conserve the biodiversity and ecosystem of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir.

The property's ecosystems should be conserved using the following strategies:

- a. Ensure the sustainable use of Battir's ecological resources using both traditional and modern practices, such as:
 - Improving biodiversity by creating "green areas;"
 - Encouraging the plantation of trees on private property to control soil and water pollution; and
 - Encouraging vegetable gardens at private houses to maintain the existence of productive agricultural plots within built-up areas.
- b. Rehabilitate the terraces in order to prevent erosion or landslides and to regulate the surface water.
- c. Implement a species conservation and recovery programme that would include activities such as removing invasive plants in favour of native ones.

Policy 15:

Conserve the hydrography, geomorphology, and geology of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir.

The following strategies should be followed:

- a. Perform chemical analyses on the soil to determine the pollution problems in the region, as well as determine the effects of pollution on crop growth and water quality.
- b. Set up a monitoring programme to determine the extent of erosion in the valley.
- c. Develop a public awareness programme that teaches the local community how to conserve agricultural terraces and how to prevent erosion, mud-cracking, water drainage, etc., in order to replenish the soil in the area.

Policy 16:

Establish a documentation centre for the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir to gather data related to archaeological research and conservation interventions. Access to this database should be open to all researchers and the general public without discrimination.

To achieve this policy, the following strategies must be in place:

- a. Collect information on previous work carried out at the archaeological sites on the property. This is necessary to provide comparison information on the speed of deterioration of the sites and to prioritise areas in immediate need of conservation.
- b. Conduct a holistic assessment of all the cultural landscape features on the property. The data gathered will be used as a documentary resource, providing comprehensive knowledge about these sites before and after excavations and conservation interventions.
- c. Establish a digital databank for the movable cultural landscape artefacts, including digital photos, basic documentary information, etc.

Policy 17:

Allocate an annual budget for the conservation of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir based on its real needs.

To do so, the following strategies are proposed:

- a. Adequate financial resources must be allocated for increasing the capacity of human resources relevant to the management and conservation of the cultural landscape of Battir.
- b. An annual public budget should be allocated to keep the cultural landscape of Battir in a good state of conservation.

Timeframe

This document proposes short-, mid-, and long-term policies for the sustainable safeguarding and management of the cultural landscape of Battir. The vision for these policies is to create an integrated and flexible process that will be initiated within a timeframe of fifteen years. They are dynamic policies that should be continuously monitored, amended, and adjusted whenever necessary.

Reviewing and monitoring the management plan

The conservation policies proposed above should be continuously reviewed and periodically monitored to evaluate their overall effectiveness, and to draw lessons from the experience gained in the course of their implementation. This will ensure that all policies are useful and prevent any further physical damage. Whenever deficiencies are found or new circumstances arise, then these policies should be revised accordingly.

Conclusion

The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir is endowed with many significant cultural heritage resources. These resources must be carefully managed, conserved, and valorised to provide a wide range of cultural and economic benefits, especially for the local community. The main challenge is to come up with sustainable conservation and valorisation policies. The proposed policies outlined in this management plan can be applied to various cultural landscape components of the property, with special attention placed on the historical old town of Battir.

The management and conservation policies listed above have been designed to conserve and manage the cultural landscape resources of the property within their holistic cultural and social contexts. These policies are seen as the planning tools necessary to ensure effective sustainable conservation and valorisation interventions, as well as to meaningfully interpret and present the value of this cultural landscape to visitors. These policies will help to conserve this unique property while, at the same time, enhancing the socio-economic status of local communities.