State of Palestine

Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of
Southern Jerusalem, Battir–Palestine (1492)

Bethlehem, Palestine
January 2019
The State of Conservation Report (SOC) for the World Heritage Property (WHP) **Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines: Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (1492)** was prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in close cooperation with other related stakeholders.
Table of Contents

Table of Contents............................................................................................................................................. 3
1. Executive Summary............................................................................................................................................. 4
2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee (WHcom) Decision 42 COM 7A.29 ............................................................................................................................................. 5
   a. Progress achieved in implementing the Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) and Corrective Measures (CM) adopted by the World Heritage Committee............................................................................ 7
   b. Timeframe for Implementation of the Corrective Measures...................................................................... 13
3. Other Current Conservation Issues ..................................................................................................................... 13
   a. Conservation interventions of the Cultural Landscape............................................................................... 13
   b. Enhancing the Physical Situation in and around the WHP............................................................................ 16
4. Future Issues Identified by the State Party ....................................................................................................... 17
5. Conclusion........................................................................................................................................................ 18
6. Figures ............................................................................................................................................................ 20
7. Annex 1: Management and Conservation Plan..................................................................................................
1. Executive Summary

Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines - Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine (Ref. 1492) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014 following an emergency nomination, in accordance with criteria (iv) and (v), and immediately on the List of World Heritage in Danger, after it was acknowledged that the landscape was threatened by emerging and intensifying socio-cultural and geo-political transformations with the potential to cause irreversible damage to the site’s authenticity and integrity—citing specifically the start of construction of an Israeli “Wall” that may isolate local farmers from fields they have cultivated for centuries.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the World Heritage Committee (WHCom), (Decision 39 COM 8B.52), The State of Palestine subsequently prepared the Desired State of Conservation Report (DSOCR) and Key Corrective Measures (CM), which were adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 39 COM 7A.29) as necessary for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. In 2016, the State of Palestine also prepared the timeline for the implementation of the corrective measures, which was adopted by the WHCom (Decision 41 COM 7A.43). In 2018 the draft Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) was prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Center for ICOMOS technical review. As soon as their review is finished, the final MCP will be endorsed and implemented by all key stakeholders to ensure adequate respect and effective safeguarding of the property and its inherent Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

This State of Conservation Report presents a response to the WHCom from the State of Palestine to requests made at the 42nd Session of the Committee (Decision 42 COM 7A.29), as well as the progress in achieving the Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) and the progress of implementation of key corrective measures by all relevant stakeholders. It outlines main activities and projects undertaken throughout 2018 towards conserving the WHP’s OUV and achieving the DSOCR and corrective measures. The primary corrective measures focus on eliminating or significantly ameliorating the imminent threat posed by an Israeli plan to construct a Wall adjacent to the property, which, if implemented, would cause irreversible damage to the site’s authenticity and integrity. Following the inscription of the property, the Israeli High Court of Justice on 4 January 2015 decided to freeze construction of the Wall. However, the court stated that the decision was largely based on budgetary considerations and the state maintains the right to build the Wall in the future. Although these developments are considered positive steps towards achieving permanent protection of the property, several Israeli violations have been committed in the WHP during 2018 and are presented in this report. Other factors are still threatening the quality of the landscape at a visual, ecological, socio-economic, and cultural level. Palestine is committed to implementing the corrective measures adopted by the WHCom, especially those aiming to conserve the cultural landscape in line with international standards, prevent abandonment and forestation of existing agricultural terraces, engage the local community with the WHP, and preserve the commitment of the WHCom with respect to human and financial resources.

In light of the above, and in spite of the positive developments achieved since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, Palestine wishes to retain the property “Palestine, Land of Olives and Vines: Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir” on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
2. **Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee (WHcom) Decision 42 COM 7A.29**

**Para. 3. The Committee** acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property;

The proposed plans for achieving the Desired State of Conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the WHP from the List of World Heritage in Danger respond to the presence of jeopardizing elements that justified the initial inscription of the site on the World Heritage in Danger list, and the factors that are presently affecting the property.

The property is threatened by various external and internal circumstances that are actively damaging the quality of the landscape and threatening its long-term viability at various visual, ecological, socio-economic, and cultural levels. Palestine is committed to promote and implement the corrective measures adopted for this property, especially those aiming to conserve and manage the property in line with international standards.

The state of conservation of the property is affected by several factors, which have contributed to the deterioration of the physical situation throughout the WHP. This deterioration, which is mainly related to the lack of conservation interventions, lack of appropriate water and sewage networks in the village of Battir, and lack of financial resources, are negatively affecting the agricultural terraces and physical attributes within the property.

Although the Israeli occupying authorities are currently applying several restrictions and constrains that prevent farmers from restoring the terraces and the agricultural watchtowers in border areas, committed stakeholders and the local community worked together on the preparation of a comprehensive Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) based on previous joint efforts involving Battir Municipality, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) and other key stakeholders that have WHP planning and management responsibilities, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment Authority.

To restore an appropriate state of conservation for the cultural landscape, an operational management system shall be developed to effectively manage the entire WHP and ensure its sustainability. The draft MCP sets out the main management and conservation objectives, strategies, and actions needed for successful conservation and protection of the WHP, as well as identifies the specific measures and programs that should be implemented. Several conservation interventions were also implemented, or are planned, to achieve the corrective measures briefly presented in this report.

It is worth noting that enhancement of the physical situation of the property and achievement of an appropriate state of conservation is not only based on internal socio-cultural factors, but also on external geo-political factors.

**Para. 4. The Committee** notes that the State Party has achieved good progress in preparing the comprehensive Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for the property and encourages it
to complete and implement the MCP, taking into account the preliminary analysis by ICOMOS and its forthcoming detailed recommendations;

The “Management and Conservation Plan for the World Heritage Property” (MCP) was prepared in close cooperation with the local community and other key stakeholders who manage parts of the site, or who have statutory responsibilities within it, between November 2016 and March 2018. In March 2018, a primary draft MCP was submitted to the World Heritage Center for revision. On 9 June 2018, a final draft was submitted to the World Heritage Center. On 2 October 2018, the ICOMOS technical review on the primary draft MCP was received from the Center. Most of the ICOMOS comments were already covered in the final draft submitted to WHC. This revision was based on high quality international consultancy offered by the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage (ARC-WH).

The response from the State Party on the ICOMOS technical review was submitted to the World Heritage Center on 16 December 2018 for further review. The State of Palestine will endorse and subsequently implement the MCP as soon as Palestine receives the final feedback on the MCP from the WHC. Based on the given outcomes of the MCP, MoTA will take practical steps to enhance the management of the WHP; for example, a specialized directorate is being established within its institutional structure. The main duty of this directorate is to conserve Palestinian World Heritage Properties and the sites on the Tentative List. According to the management structure established in the MCP, two main committees will be created: the MCP’s Steering Committee and the Site Management Committee. These two committees will work in close cooperation with the Site Manager, who will play an essential role in encouraging, guiding, overseeing and monitoring progress, as well as reviewing and updating the Management and Conservation Plan and coordinating workshops towards conservation and development projects and activities executed or planned within the property (see annex 1).

Para. 5. The Committee, welcoming the efforts being made by the State Party to implement the corrective measures to achieve the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), urges the State Party to pay additional attention to measure (iv) through allocating funds to put in place an adequate sewage system, which has thus far witnessed no progress;

Water and soil pollution as a result of the lack of a sewage system is one of the most urgent environmental problems affecting the WHP. The State of Palestine is working to find practical solutions for this problem. A project with an estimated 25 million USD budget was prepared to put in place an adequate sewage system for the Bethlehem Western Villages, including vast parts of the WHP, however the project is still delayed due to its high costs. The Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WSSA), Battir Municipality, Hossan Village Council, Ministry of Local Government, and Joint Service Council organized many meetings to develop temporary mechanisms to solve the problem until the required funds are secured; for instance, the related Municipal Councils forbid the construction of new houses without sealed septic tanks, and provide inhabitants with low-cost sewerage tanks to empty the collected sewage water every few weeks in nearby sewage stations in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour. Moreover, a Water and Sewage Unit was established to manage the sewage water in the Bethlehem Western Villages and to seek needed funds for the project as soon as possible.
Para. 6. The Committee invites the State Party to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

The WHP Management Committees, in close coordination with the Site Manager, work to oversee, monitor, and manage all actions, projects, and activities that take place within the property, as well as ensure that any project planned or implemented within the property should sustain its OUV and their supporting attributes, and align with the objectives, strategies, and actions of the Management and Conservation Plan. As per the new law for Tangible Cultural Heritage (No 11, 2018), prior to the implementation of any significant intervention or proposed development within the WHP, appropriate HIA and/or EIA impact assessments shall be conducted, however, other impact assessment mechanisms should be put in place to manage the implementation of minor interventions within the WHP.

In the event that any future major intervention or new construction projects are developed which might affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the State Party is committed to inform the WHC.

a. Progress achieved in implementing the Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) and Corrective Measures (CM) adopted by the World Heritage Committee

DSOCR#1: Dismissal of plans to build a “Wall” along the property, or within its surroundings
CM1.1: Agreement to dismiss plans to build a “Wall” along the property, or within its surroundings

On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice, in an advisory opinion, stated that, “the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated régime, are contrary to international law,” and is therefore considered illegal, adding that the “Wall” may refer to any barrier whether it is a physical wall or a fence.

A clearly-defined, binding decision in accordance with Article 6 Section 3 of the World Heritage Convention (1972), which states, “Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention,” is still required at this time.

As noted in previous SOC reports, the geo-political context in which the property lies—namely, the direct and indirect effects of illegal building of settlements on surrounding hills and the proposed illegal construction of the “Wall”—is considered the most significant threat to the authenticity and integrity of the property.
On 4 January 2015, the Israeli High Court of Justice froze plans for the construction of the “Wall” adjacent to the property. This concluded a three-year legal battle in response to petitions submitted by the village of Battir and supported by the State of Palestine, in cooperation with Friends of the Earth Middle East. The decision came after the Israeli government chose not to re-authorize a 2006 plan to erect a three kilometer stretch of the “Wall,” and subsequently revealed that the plan was not a high security or budgetary priority.

The decision of the Israeli High Court of Justice was taken after the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger during the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee. Although this is a positive move towards protecting the site and its authenticity and integrity, threats resulting from the construction of a “Wall” along the property remain valid until a binding decision is adopted by Israel stipulating that no “Wall” shall ever be constructed in or around the site. The decision must secure the long-term protection of the site and its settings.

Moreover, illegal construction of settlements on surrounding hills is negatively affecting the visual and ecological quality of the landscape. To a significant degree, these factors are related to direct acts by the Israeli occupation authorities, and should be also dismissed upon a binding decision ensuring the protection of the property. Such acts are progressively subjugating and effectively annexing both the territorial area and the inhabitants of Battir, and thus severely threaten the integrity of the WHP’s landscape and the sustainability of its ecological and environmental equilibrium, in addition to preventing the local community from maintaining their agricultural lands in the areas that are close to the settlements.

**During 2018, the occupying power has increased its violations and plans within the property. The following Israeli occupation plans, among other actions, are affecting the WHP’s OUV and its physical attributes.**

1. The Israeli occupying authorities plan to build a new tunnel and open a new bypass road for settlers (Road 60) adjacent to existing roads in the eastern part of the WHP near Beit Jala and directly within the property. These planned constructions might destroy significant parts of the WHP landscape, which is characterized by agricultural terraces, watchtowers, water springs, and olive oil presses, affecting the WHP’s Outstanding Universal Value, its integrity, and authenticity. Notably, in October 2018 the Israeli occupying authorities approved the expansion of this road over Palestinian lands for the benefit of Israel’s colonial-settlement enterprise (see Figure 1).

2. On 19 December 2018, a group of settlers, supported by the Israeli Army, used bulldozers to open a new, roughly 500 meter road between the historic Battir-Beit Jala road and the top of a mountain within the property near Bardamawt Spring, in order to build a new colonial-settlement in the Western Bethlehem area. The road is located approximately 500 meters from the illegal colonial-settlement of “Har Gilo”. This was followed by the establishment of a caravan on 25 December on the hilltop. The inhabitants of the Battir village successfully worked to stop the settlers and the caravan was removed, however the threat of such future actions remains high. This illegal incursion destroyed about 2325m² of the agricultural lands. If this illegal settlement is constructed, significant parts of the WHP will be destroyed and it will irreversibly lose its OUV, integrity, and authenticity (see Figure 2 and 3).
3. The Israeli occupying power demolished two touristic amenities in the WHP: Al-Mahatah Tent near the railway which was used to serve tourists and support farmers in the WHP and another caravan at the entrance of the hiking trail which was used as a rest area for tourists and visitors to the WHP (see Figure 4).

4. The Israeli occupying authorities are applying several restrictions and constraints that prevent farmers and related stakeholders from restoring the terraces, the agricultural watchtowers, and the traditional irrigation system. For example, in 2018 the occupying authorities stopped two main projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture to restore traditional agricultural paths within WHP and confiscated the equipment and machines used for the project.

5. The Israeli occupying power demolished many residential houses located within the property’s buffer zone that were built in Area C, which is under direct control by the occupying power.

As this DSOCR, “Dismissal of plans to build a “Wall” along the property, or within its surroundings,” is not defined within the adopted timeframe and is largely dependent on actions and decisions by the Israeli occupation authorities, which are beyond the control of the State of Palestine, no progress has been achieved. In contrast, many violations have been recorded, as previously stated.

**DSOCR#2: Adequate conservation of the agricultural terraces and their associated components, including watchtowers and dry-stone walls throughout the property**

*CM2.1: Implementation of projects to restore an appropriate state of conservation for the agricultural terraces and their components, including the watchtowers and dry-stone walls throughout the property*

The stakeholders realize their role in achieving an appropriate state of conservation of the various components of the property including agricultural terraces and their components, and have been working tirelessly on implementing several projects related to this goal. In 2018, the key stakeholders have implemented many projects within the WHP towards achieving this corrective measure, including the following:

1. **Rehabilitation of two traditional agricultural paths within the WHP.** The aim of this project is to rehabilitate, repair, and enhance approximately 2.3 km of traditional pathways in the Karm Hedadon and Abaseen Spring area, located within the property, which will help farmers access and cultivate their lands. The project started in September 2018 and will be completed in February 2019. It is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture with a total budget of $510000 USD (see Figure 5).

2. **Rehabilitation of agricultural dry-stone walls and reclamation and repair of agricultural land in the Wadi al-Makrour.** The aim of this project is to rehabilitate approximately 1500 m² of dry-stone walls in the Wadi al-Makrour, as well as to repair and reclaim approximately 40 dunums (9.9 acres) of abandoned agricultural lands to benefit 15 farmers. This project started in January 2018 and will be completed in March 2018. It is funded by the Government of Aragon in Spain through Caritas Spain, and is implemented by Caritas Jerusalem with a total budget of $70000 USD (see Figure 6).
3. **Building Resilience To Empower Communities (BREC).** The project targeted four of the most vulnerable villages in the Bethlehem district: Battir, Um Salammona, Wadi Fuqin, and Al-Khader. Based on a needs assessment study conducted in the villages, three main priorities were identified as needed for the villages: rehabilitation of land, land reclamation, rehabilitation of vineyards, access to water, and access to safe public spaces. Based on these needs, MA’AN Development Center, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, designed a project that works with three main boundary partners (farmers, women, and local CBOs) in conjunction with the villages’ councils. The project goals were to contribute to the steadfastness of the community members, enhance the socio-economic situation of the local community, and to enhance the state of conservation of the dry-stone walls. In Battir, the project included the restoration of approximately 300 m² of dry-stone walls; rehabilitation of approximately 41 dunums of agricultural lands; construction of five water cisterns; and enhancement of the current tourist hiking trail by providing it with three rest areas, fifteen benches, and fifty waste baskets. This project started in June 2018 and was completed last November. It was funded by HEKS (The Aid Organization of the Swiss Protestant Churches) and implemented by MA’AN with a total budget of $67930 USD.

In fact, this DSOCR and its related corrective measure is projected to be completed by 2024, as adopted within the timeframe, and is largely dependent on actions and projects executed by the State Party. The State of Palestine is working to secure required funds to achieve the DSOCR as planned.

**DSOCR#3: Adequate restoration of the irrigation system and the development of a sufficient sewage system to protect water quality on the property**

*CM3.1: Implementation of a project to restore traditional irrigation systems*

*CM3.2: Implementation of a project to put in place an adequate sewage system to protect water quality on the property*

As previously mentioned, the only progress achieved towards achieving these corrective measures is the establishment of the Water and Sewage Unit, which became responsible for the management of sewage water within the property, and for seeking required funds to put in place an adequate sewage system to protect water quality on the property.

Moreover, the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WSSA), in close cooperation with the Battir Municipality, executed a project to improve the water supply networks in the Battir village and to serve wide areas of the WHP, with a total budget of $1143000 USD.

**Further actions, activities, and projects are planned to take place during 2019 in order to achieve this DSOCR and its related corrective measures. Further, additional efforts shall be made to secure required funds to put in place an adequate sewage system and to achieve these corrective measures by the year 2023.**

**DSOCR#4: Protection methods in place for the property and its buffer zone**

*CM4.1: Preparation, approval, and implementation of an MCP for the property*
CM4.2: Development and implementation of an active system of management that involves local communities and stakeholders

For centuries, the task of conserving and managing the WHP’s physical and cultural landscape was undertaken by the villagers, who carefully maintained and utilized the landscape as their resource. However, today conservation of historical property requires highly specialized tools and expertise. Such is needed to enable the State of Palestine and the related local authorities to safeguard this outstanding site for present and future generations.

As previously mentioned, in 2018, the Management and Conservation Plan was developed by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in close cooperation with key stakeholders and in consultation with UNESCO, and if endorsed by 2019, it will provide strong guidance for several management issues and activities within the WHP, particularly those which are affecting its OUV, integrity, and authenticity.

Within the framework of preparing the MCP and after submitting it to the WHC, MoTA jointly organized a series of stakeholder consultation workshops concerning the current and planned projects and activities within the property, in order to establish better coordination and cooperation. These workshops contribute to decreasing overlap between several projects and aim to raise awareness of World Heritage Property management, in addition to integrate several plans and activities within the context of the MCP.

In 2018, MoTA also proposed a new institutional structure that includes a “General Directorate of the World Heritage Sites in Palestine”, which aims to provide a comprehensive management system for all world cultural heritage sites in Palestine. The responsibilities of this proposed directorate are to conserve, manage, valorize, and promote the inscribed World Heritage Sites, as well as to ensure effective implementation of the aforementioned MCP. This directorate is responsible for forming the WHP’s proposed Operational Management System that involves all key stakeholders, local communities, and private sector, and includes the Steering Committee (SC), the Site Management Committee (SMC), and Site Manager.

The SMC, in close collaboration with the SC and the Site Manager, defines an annual Action Plan that includes a set of activities or projects that parallel the MCP’s objectives, to be undertaken within the WHP each year. This annual Action Plan shall cover the five themes established in the MCP, and shall be compatible with the WHP’s vision, as well as fit current priorities. These actions shall be defined in collaboration with the different involved bodies, and in consultation with concerned national and international stakeholders.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that MoTA takes a lead in management planning for the WHP to ensure the development of capacity building in heritage management according to international principles at both state and local levels. In this framework, the WHP’s Site Manager participated in a series of three training workshops on the “Implementation of the Enhancing Our Heritage (EoH) toolkit: Management Effectiveness Assessment”, which was organized by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) in the Kingdom of Bahrain between May 2018 and January 2019. These workshops gathered approximately ten Site Managers of natural and mixed World Heritage Sites as well as cultural landscapes from the Arab Region, in order to learn how to evaluate the effectiveness of their management and
identify potentials areas for improvement. The EoH consists of twelve tools which help to assess the adequacy and appropriateness of management systems and processes. Together these tools help build a picture of how well a site is being managed and achieving its objectives. The tools can be used to supplement existing assessments or to build a new assessment system, and can be particularly useful towards the development or review of primary planning documents (i.e. management plans). Through these workshops, the WHP’s Site Manager gained the necessary skills and knowledge to establish an assessment, monitoring, and reporting program for evaluating management effectiveness of the property, in addition to strengthen the networks of World Heritage Site Managers in the Arab Region, in order to support an effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the national and local levels.

As this DSOCR and its related corrective measures are planned to be completed by 2021, as adopted within the timeframe, and are largely dependent on the endorsement and implementation of the MCP and the Operational Management System, the State of Palestine is committed to achieve them as planned.

**DSOCR#5: Adoption of a management plan and monitoring system, and a sustainable management structure in place**

**CM5.1: Preparation of a set of indicators for monitoring the property and implementation of a monitoring system**

**CM5.2: Development of protection methods for the property and its buffer zone**

Regular monitoring of the implementation of the Management and Conservation Plan is crucial because such feedback can be used to inform improvement of its effectiveness and potential for success.

A monitoring system shall be established to undertake the regular monitoring of the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone as soon as the management system become operational and in conjunction with the Site Management Committee and the Site Manager duties, which are responsible for the implementation of the MCP. The monitoring system takes into account a number of key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of the property, as well as reviews the progress in implementing the MCP’s objectives, strategies, and actions in light of the attributes of the OUV, in addition to contributing to the protection of the assets in the WHP through conservation and maintenance works in conformity with international standards and the engagement of the WHP’s local community. A set of monitoring indicators were developed, covering the five themes established through MCP preparation, namely the management and planning, conservation and protection, tourism and visitor management, engagement of local community and public awareness, and infrastructure and accessibility. Each key monitoring indicator defines its characteristics, its responsible entity, and the frequency by which it shall be measured.

For example, one of the main threats that affect the WHP is the urban growth in and around the cultural landscape. New houses, shops, and roads are constructed every day. These activities will consequently affect negatively the WHP’s OUV. Hence further monitoring, coordination, joint planning, and interference by the Management Committees and the Site Manager will be required to avoid uncontrolled urban expansion and development. To this end,
a land use plan in addition to a bylaw shall be developed to address this problem and follow-up workshops shall be organized with the Ministry of Local Government and related Municipalities to put in place practical solutions for these issues.

As this DSOCR and its related corrective measures are planned to be completed by 2021, as adopted within the timeframe, and are largely dependent on the endorsement and implementation of the MCP and the Operational Management System, the State of Palestine is committed to achieve them as planned.

b. Timeframe for Implementation of the Corrective Measures

The State of Palestine prepared the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, which was adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 41 COM 7A.43). Article 3 of this decision encourages the State of Palestine to review this timeframe in order to accelerate pace for any of the key corrective measures if possible. As mentioned in the previous SOC report and after reviewing the timeframe, the key stakeholders of the WHP recommended in favor of preserving the timeframe as it was previously defined due to a lack of appropriate funds and resources allocated for the property. It is worth noting that the timeframe is adequately integrated within the MCP’s objectives, strategies, and action plan.

In spite of the fact that the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures are planned to be achieved within a period of 10 years, the first DSOCR, “Dismissal of plans to build a ‘Wall’ along the property, or within its surroundings,” is not defined within the known timeframe, as it is largely dependent on actions and decisions by the Israeli occupation authorities, which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the State of Palestine, and is therefore undeterminable at this time.

3. Other Current Conservation Issues

In addition to the projects and activities related to the DSOCR and corrective measures mentioned above and in the previous SOC reports, the actions highlighted in subsequent sections of this report were carried out in 2018. They are divided into two categories: (1) conservation interventions of the cultural landscape and (2) the enhancement of the physical situation in and around the property.

a. Conservation interventions of the Cultural Landscape

List of other efforts and activities implemented in 2018 towards conserving and enhancing the Cultural Landscape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects and Activities</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Lead Partner(s)</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Conservation and Community</td>
<td>September 2018 to £287,343 GBP Palestine Institute of</td>
<td>This is a British and Palestinian collaboration to conserve biodiversity in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Start Date</td>
<td>Institution(s)</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development in Al-Makhour Valley</td>
<td>March 2021</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS) and Palestine Museum of Natural History (PMNH) at Bethlehem University</td>
<td>Al-Makhour Valley, benefitting the local communities through sustainable use of ecosystem services, including (a) promoting agriculture/green practices, (b) developing ecotourism, and (c) reducing human impact via environmental awareness and education programs while promoting sustainable lifestyles. Project outputs delivered will focus on biodiversity conservation, reviving traditional farming, enhancement of eco-tourism, and capacity building.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The protection and preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage related to natural history and ethnography</td>
<td>September 2018 to August 2019</td>
<td>£94,650 GBP</td>
<td>This project will focus on the protection and preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage related to the natural history and ethnography of more than 250 localities in the West Bank of Palestine, including the WHP. The project’s outputs are: (1) collect and preserve between 30-50 tangible objects related to agriculture; (2) document minimum of 350-400 intangible heritage records; (3) increase awareness and cooperation between relevant stakeholders and local communities; (4) raise the profile of the museum among the public to increase awareness and understanding about the cultural heritage;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Start Date</td>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Implementing Organization</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased amount of people involved in data collection and provision; increase number and range of people engaging with the cultural heritage; organize and conduct 4 awareness raising events in addition to developing a webpage that includes all collected oral heritage stories, narratives, and songs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>This project aimed to maintain and enhance traditional pathways that lead to number of agricultural fields in the Al-Marj area in the WHP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance and enhancement of traditional pathways in Al-Marj</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>$10,000 USD</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>This project encouraged farmers to plant more than 10,000 eggplants during the last season (Spring-Summer). It purchased improved seedlings and sold them to farmers at half price. Subsequently, most of the crops were sold to the WHP’s visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the cultivation of Battiri Eggplants</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
<td>$5,000 USD</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>The Municipality fixed 8 wooden stalls in Al-Meadan square to encourage farmers to sell their products, including fresh vegetables and fruits, to the WHP’s visitors. <em>(See Figure 8)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize a regular traditional market every Saturday</td>
<td>July 2018 to Present</td>
<td>$10,000 USD</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>This project’s aim is to encourage farmers to use new environmental agriculture methods and techniques. It will support farmers with needed funds, knowledge, and field training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop organic agriculture in the Wadi al-Makrour</td>
<td>January to March 2018</td>
<td>$50,000 USD</td>
<td>Caritas Jerusalem (This project is funded by the Government of Aragon in Spain through Caritas Spain.)</td>
<td>This project’s aim is to encourage farmers to use new environmental agriculture methods and techniques. It will support farmers with needed funds, knowledge, and field training.</td>
</tr>
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### Raising public awareness in schools towards cultural heritage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raising public awareness in schools towards cultural heritage</td>
<td>September to November 2018</td>
<td>$1,000 USD</td>
<td>Battir Public Library</td>
<td>Several awareness raising workshops and lectures were held by the Battir Public Library, in close cooperation with Beit Sahour Library, for the Battir’s girls schools, in order to raise public awareness about the cultural heritage. <em>(See Figure 9)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Organize a Battiri eggplant festival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organize a Battiri eggplant festival</td>
<td>16 &amp; 17 August 2018</td>
<td>$10,000 USD</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, MoTA, and ARIJ</td>
<td>The festival was organized for two continuous days, with the aim of encouraging farmers to market their products, including eggplants, handicrafts, and Battir honey, to the WHP’s visitors. <em>(See Figure 8)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Encourage inhabitants to create green areas and encourage planting of trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encourage inhabitants to create green areas and encourage planting of trees</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Battir Municipality and Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>The Battir Municipality, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, provided the inhabitants with 550 trees to be planted in home gardens and public spaces to create green areas within the WHP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Organize “Our Heritage is our Identity” activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organize “Our Heritage is our Identity” activity</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>$1,000 USD</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, Jerusalem Old City Revitalization Program–Taawon, and MoTA</td>
<td>This activity was organized by 55 volunteers who worked to clean two archeological parks in the WHP: Khirbet Battir, and Al-Shekeh Kattab shrine. <em>(See Figure 7)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**b. Enhancing the Physical Situation in and around the WHP**

Negative impacts resulted from the village’s weak infrastructure are recognized by all stakeholders. Since the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List, various stakeholders have sought to enhance this situation through multiple interventions, including rehabilitation of abandoned traditional buildings inside the historic center of Battir for reuse as community or tourist facilities; improvement of the socio-economic status of the local community; and improvement of the infrastructure, especially roads networks, water supply networks, and management of solid waste.
**List of 2018 efforts towards enhancing the physical situation of the WHP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects and Activities</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation of Khirbet Al-Bader and Khallet Battir roads</td>
<td>April to June 2018</td>
<td><em>This project aimed to rehabilitate the Khallet Battir and the Khirbet Al-Bader roads.</em> Funded by the MDLF with a total budget of $121,627 USD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation of several internal roads within the WHP</td>
<td>January to March 2018</td>
<td><em>This project contributed to rehabilitating internal roads that connect Battir’s main street with the village’s residential quarters.</em> Funded by the Ministry of Local Government with a total budget of $100,000 USD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest house renovation</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td><em>This project renovated the guest house of Battir. It replaced an old leaking water tank with new ones, repainted its rooms, and repaired its pergola in front of the dining room.</em> Funded by Felcos Umbria Cooperation in Italy with a total budget of $7,500 USD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixing interpretation panel at the entrance to the WHP from Beit Jala</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
<td><em>The Panel which includes the Property name in English and Arabic was fixed by the Beit Jala Municipality. (See Figure11)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Future Issues Identified by the State Party**

Future actions address a set of proposed projects that will assure implementation of the corrective measures as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects and Activities</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restoration and rehabilitation of landscapes and historical buildings in the Battir village</td>
<td>2019 to 2021</td>
<td><em>This proposed project aims to document, restore, and rehabilitate a number of historical buildings within the WHP, as well as conserve dry-stone walls and a historical water channel in Al-Jinan zone. The project will also conduct capacity building workshops for a group of specialists in addition to awareness raising activities and volunteer campaigns for the residents of the village of Battir in an effort to raise public awareness</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
about the importance of preserving the heritage and the cultural scene.

**Funded and conducted by Jerusalem Old City Revitalization Program–Taawon with a total budget of $500,000 USD.**

| Local oral cultural heritage and traditional knowledge documentation | 2019 | This proposed project aims to collect oral cultural heritage and traditional agrarian knowledge throughout the WHP.

**Funded and conducted by the Ministry of Culture with a total budget of $105,000 USD.**

| Establishment of a sewage network | Pending funding | This proposed project aims to establish a sewage network for the Battir village.

| Wastewater treatment plant for Battir and Hossan | Pending advice of the World Heritage Committee and funding | This plan aims to construct a wastewater treatment plant to treat the sewage discharged from the villages of Battir and Hossan, and to promote the reuse of treated wastewater in the area. It will be established in the buffer zone of the WHP. The treatment plant will contribute to resolving underground water pollution, which is causing severe damage to the springs and irrigated crops.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) shall be undertaken and subsequently submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to implementation of the project.

5. Conclusion

As highlighted in this State of Conservation Report, the State of Palestine conducted several projects and activities during 2018 to conserve and sustainably develop the WHP and its OUV, with the aim of achieving the Desired State of Conservation and corrective measures set for the site to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including rehabilitation of parts of the agricultural terraces, rehabilitation of the traditional pathways, enhancement of community engagement in the conservation and management of the WHP, and raising public awareness towards the WHP’s OUV.

The final draft of the Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP has been prepared and was submitted to the WHC on June 2018 for review and feedback. It is planned to be endorsed and implemented by the beginning of 2019. The operational management system also is planned to be formed and put in place by the same date, to ensure MCP implementation and adequate respect and effective safeguarding of the property and its inherent Outstanding Universal Value.

The threats resulting from the Israeli occupying power planned construction of a “Wall” along the property, construction of new illegal settlements within or around the property, and opening
of new bypass roads remain valid until a binding decision, in conformity with Article 6 Section 3 of the World Heritage Convention (1972), is adopted by concerned Israeli authorities. It is critical to the long term stability of this WHP, its integrity and authenticity, that this threat is disabled through binding action.

In spite of considerable achievements and the positive efforts of various stakeholders in enhancing the state of conservation of the property and its surroundings as well as the dismissal of some of threats to the WHP, Palestine wishes to retain the property “Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir” on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
6. Figures

Palestine’s Heritage Under Occupation
In Focus: Bethlehem's Denied Potential

1. Plans to build new tunnel and open a new bypass road for settlers (Road 60)
2. Maps for new road and new colonial-settlement within the WHP opened by settlers on December 2018
3. New road and new colonial-settlement within the WHP opened by settlers on December 2018
4. Demolition of two tourist’s amenities in the WHP by the Israeli occupying power
5. Rehabilitation of two traditional agricultural pathways
6. Rehabilitation of agricultural dry-stone walls and reclamation of agricultural land in the Wadi al-Makrour
7. “Our Heritage is our Identity” activity
8. Traditional Market and Eggplants Festival
9. Workshops and activities towards safeguarding cultural heritage
10. Workshops for key stakeholders towards management of the WHP
11. Interpretation panel at the entrance to the WHP from Beit Jala
PALESTINE: “LAND OF OLIVES & VINES - CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF SOUTHERN JERUSALEM, BATTIR”

APPENDICES & ANNEXES

MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION PLAN 2018
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appendix 1  Stakeholders, Steering Committee, And Focus Group ............................................. 5  
Appendix 2  Historic Context ........................................................................................................ 11  
Appendix 3  Tourism Dynamics Of The WHP Assessment ........................................................... 20  
Appendix 4  Visitor’s Questionnaire ............................................................................................ 40  
Appendix 5  Physical Attributes Assessment “Watchtowers, Dry Stone Walls, And Irrigation System” .... 47  
Appendix 6  Field Survey Data Sheets ......................................................................................... 69  
Appendix 7  World Heritage Property Maps ............................................................................... 75  

Annex 1  CULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN PALESTINE: Battir Region As A Case Study ......................... 125  
Annex 2  Melina Mercouri International Prize .............................................................................. 163  
Annex 3  1492-ICOMOS-Report ................................................................................................. 189  
Annex 4  Battir As “An Environmental Significant Eco-System” .................................................. 207  
Annex 5  IPCC Battir Sustainable Plan ......................................................................................... 219  
Annex 6  Archaeology And Oslo ................................................................................................ 237  
Annex 7  Battir Declaration ........................................................................................................ 241  
Annex 8  Battir Master Plan ......................................................................................................... 246
APPENDIX 1
STAKEHOLDERS, STEERING COMMITTEE, AND FOCUS GROUP
1. STAKEHOLDERS AND STEERING COMMITTEE

Stakeholder engagement in the management planning process helps to identify the real needs and expectations of the local community and related institutions, as well as facilitate delineation of roles and gain insight into mandates and other influences that affect the protection of the WHP. Indeed, working with stakeholders provides the opportunity to share information; increase stakeholder commitment; engender collective responsibility; and gain their knowledge, consent, and support for actions that will protect and enhance the property’s heritage values, authenticity, and integrity.

Fieldwork increasingly indicates that the WHP stakeholders are heterogeneous, with diverse interests and values. However, their collective input is a good representation of the breadth of community opinion, has been, and continues to be evaluated as a crucial dimension in managing, safeguarding, and valorizing the WHP. Their input was used to assess the value of certain cultural heritage properties to which they have a unique relationship.

1.1 ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

Martha Demas defined stakeholders as “government agencies, archaeologists and researchers, groups with an affinity or ancestral relationship to a site, local community members, private tourist agencies and specialized tourists” (Demas, 2002, p. 31). This definition leads to the following classification of the levels of stakeholders for this WHP:

1) Decision-makers: consists primarily of public sector institutions, which oversee various domains, related to cultural heritage sites and resources and might have a direct impact on site resource management.
2) Civil institutions: comprised of NGOs and semi-public institutions.
3) Local community: includes main local civil institutions serving the WHP and its buffer zone, which have been consulted previously concerning cultural heritage management, as well as the local inhabitants who are the key landowners of the WHP.
4) Private sector: includes those who have done, or who are expected to do significant work at the WHP (e.g., tourism services, women associations, researchers, tourism professionals).
5) International institutions: includes the UNESCO Ramallah Office, international donors, and other international institutions that have or will have made a contribution of some kind to the site.

Level of influence for various Stakeholders involved in preparing the MCP

Various stakeholders have levels of influence on management and conservation of the WHP. Some of these stakeholders have responsibilities that involve planning and land management, including key landowners and local authorities; others work in several sectors impacted by the WHP including infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, and site promotion.

1) First Level Ministries and Governmental Bodies(Decision Makers)

- Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA): a governmental body that is legally responsible for management, conservation, protection, and revitalization of cultural heritage sites. It also controls, supervises, and licenses all tourism entities in Palestine; promotes Palestine within international markets as an independent tourism destination within international markets; enhances public awareness within local communities about the importance of cultural heritage and tourism.
• Environmental Quality Authority (EQA): a governmental body responsible for strategic planning, legislation, monitoring, and implementing of environmental regulations; also coordinates with authorities at the local, regional, and international levels concerning the protection of Palestinian environment and development.

• Ministry of Agriculture (MoA): oversees the agricultural sector; supervises and provides some key agricultural and veterinary services to all cities and villages in Palestine.

• Ministry of Local Government (MoLG): oversees the local government sector; aims to achieve sustainable development with the participation of community actors; builds communities’ institutional capacity; promotes community and local government engagement; promotes fiscal autonomy through public-private partnerships.

• Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP): contributes to the growth and stability of the national economy, with the aim of ensuring life and dignity through sustainable economic development; manages public finance efficiently and effectively through revenue development and rationalization of expenditures with transparent and fair financial systems that are supported by regulatory procedures.

• Ministry of Culture (MoC): responsible for nurturing a national creative and innovative culture that respects and manufactures intellectual, political, religious, and aesthetic pluralism, and which is open to other cultures, stands in the face of authoritarianism, oppression, exploitation, accountability and corruption; strengthens Palestinian social fabric and national, regional, and local cultural identities; defends freedom of expression; protects, documents, and repairs intangible heritage and the historical narrative of the Palestinian people.

• Ministry of Endowment (MoE): oversees Islamic affairs; works to show case and disseminate Islamic culture and develop religious awareness through appropriate advocacy means; responsible for all mosques, maqams (shrines), and other religious buildings within the WHP.

2) Second Level Civil Institutions (Municipalities, Village councils and NGOs)

• Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP): non-profit organization established in March 2001 with the mission to oversee the preservation of traditional and historical neighborhoods and buildings within the towns and villages of Palestine and enhance awareness of cultural heritage in the public consciousness; has expertise and knowledge in implementing urban rehabilitation projects in ancient towns.

• Battir Municipality: the first local village council was established in 1982 and upgraded to municipality in 2016. It is legally responsible for managing and improving infrastructure and various community services (e.g., education, health, local services, agriculture).

• Beit Jala Municipality: local council established in 1912; legally responsible for managing and improving infrastructure and various services; oversees various civic sectors in Beit Jala city (e.g., education, health, local services, and cultural heritage).

• Hossan Village Council: local village council established in 1996; legally responsible for managing and improving infrastructure and various services; oversees various civic sectors in Hossan village (e.g., education, health, local services, agriculture, cultural heritage).

Others Civil Institutions: Battir 2020 Initiative; Eco-museum; Battir Public library; Battir Women Cooperative Society; Hassan Mustafa Cultural Center; Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil; Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ); Joint Service Council for Tourism Development of Bethlehem Governorate (JSCTDB); and International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC).
3) Third Level Local Community, WHP Farmers, and Village Inhabitants
Local community stakeholders are mainly comprised of members from the communities of Battir, Hussan, and Beit Jala, and are considered the most important partners. They live in WHP and benefit from the property through a variety of means, as outlined below (ARIJ, 2010).
- 10% of the total of Battir village population work in agriculture (plant various kind of crops and trees throughout the year)
- 5% of the total of Battir village population work in tourism and trade sectors.
- 20% of the total of Battir village population is employed in the public Palestine sector.
- 65% of the total population is employed in the Israeli labor market.

4) Fourth Level Private Sector
Professional stakeholders are those who have done significant work at the WHP, such as researchers, tours operators, and anyone who has a commercial, social, or economical interest in or relationship to the WHP such as Arab Hotel Association - AHA, Holy Land Incoming Tour Operators Association - HILTOA, Arab Tourist Guide Union - ATGU.

5) Fifth Level International Institutions
- UNESCO Ramallah Office: the Office is actively involved in applying sustained security measures for the property as part of collective efforts for the safeguarding of the WHP; several visits to the property and meetings with the Battir Municipality and potential donors have taken place since the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List; these collaborative meetings reviewed and identified conservation and management challenges, proposed solutions, and integrated those solutions into comprehensive projects that advocated for the sustained safeguarding, rehabilitation, and promotion of the agricultural landscape.
- International Donors: it includes governments and organizations from around the world; work to finance various development and conservation projects within the WHP. Over the last three years, many projects were financed and implemented by different international institutions, such as: the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), Italian Government, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF), British Council, and French Government

1.2 STEERING COMMITTEE
The Management and Conservation Plan is prepared under the direct guidance of a steering committee headed by MoTA. It comprised of representatives from the project partners, including the UNESCO Ramallah Office, EQA, MoA, MoLG, CCHP, Beit Jala Municipality, Hossan Village Council, and Battir Municipality.

A series of meetings were held with the steering committee to discuss the stages of the MCP and the responsibilities of each partner. All objectives, strategies and action plans have been developed in accordance with input from the steering committee, which typically includes governmental bodies and agencies with responsibilities within the WHP. Tasks of committee were identified as the following:

1) Monitor the progress and effectiveness of MCP preparations.
2) Facilitate collection of data relevant to their mandates.
3) Review relevant objectives, strategies, and action plans of the MCP and, if needed, propose modifications and/or additions.
4) Identify priorities relevant to their specific role for the annual action plan and report these as part of the ongoing MCP review and revision process.
1.3 FOCUS GROUP

A focus group from the local community of the WHP was established to be consulted during different stages of the MCP preparation process. It is comprised of landowners, landscape stewardship, tourist professionals, engineers and farmers.

A series of meetings and workshops were held with the group, and a planning methodology was developed. This group has the essential role of identifying the WHP’s assets and values, and assisting in data gathering and documentation of intangible history and cultural traditions of the local community. The focus group also participated in developing the MCP’s objectives, strategies and action plans, and it will subsequently aid in its implementation.

The responsibilities of the focus group are to:

1) Help the planning team to gather required data associated with the WHP.
2) Aid in identifying the heritage values of the WHP in collaboration with the local community.
3) Aid in Developing relevant objectives, strategies, and action plans for the MCP.
4) Raise awareness, promote an appreciation of the site’s OUV among the local community, and protect neglected cultural, historical, and natural attributes, as well as introduce the features as a tool for development.
1.4 ENGAGEMENT MECHANISMS OF STAKEHOLDERS

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

Several successful workshops and meetings with the local community were held and are considered an essential part of the planning process. The aim of these meetings was to spread awareness and involve the local population in future planning tasks by identifying important concepts of sustainable planning, exchanging knowledge of main threats to the WHP, and seeking future solutions.

The meetings discussed and identified possible development themes with local stakeholders, and were held every month with different levels of stakeholder who operate at the local level and who are part of the focus group and/or the steering committee.
APPENDIX 2
HISTORIC CONTEXT
**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Although not much was documented about the specific history of the area during past historical periods, excavations and surveys in Khirbet Battir and its environs revealed pottery that dates back to the Bronze Ages, Iron Age, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic Periods (Ussiskin, 1986-1987).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
<td>3200 BC to 2000 BC</td>
<td>Archaeological excavations and surveys have revealed remains that date to the Bronze Ages, namely to the Middle Bronze Age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Bronze Age</td>
<td>2000 BC to 1550 BC</td>
<td>During a site visit of the team working on the nomination, remains of pottery that date to the Bronze Age were found at Khirbet Battir. ¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Bronze Age</td>
<td>1550 BC to 1200 BC</td>
<td>Pottery remains that date to the Iron Age I and II, the Persian Period, and the Hellenistic Period were found in soundings conducted by Z. Yeivin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age I</td>
<td>1200 BC to 1000 BC</td>
<td>The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir was located along the main road connecting the port city of Gaza with Jerusalem; the village of Battir (known as “Bethther” during that period) was located at the top of the hill to the east of the road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age II</td>
<td>1000 BC to 535 BC</td>
<td>Remains of a fortification wall at Khirbet Battir have been found, the construction and shape of which date back to the Roman Period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian Period ²</td>
<td>535 BC to 332 BC</td>
<td>Remains also indicate that the site was inhabited during the first and second centuries AD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellenistic Period</td>
<td>332 BC to 63 BC</td>
<td>Remains of a human settlement, including some tools that were used for agriculture, were found during a 2007 excavation. ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Period</td>
<td>63 BC to 324 AD</td>
<td>Consistent with the findings of excavations conducted in 2007, (Dagan, 2010) which concluded that the WHP area has been continuously in use as an agricultural settlement, these lands were used for farming during these periods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byzantine Period</td>
<td>324 AD to 636 AD</td>
<td>Some physical evidence of these periods, including Crusader buildings, remains inexistence in Battir today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caliphate Period</td>
<td>636 AD to 661 AD</td>
<td>Remains of a human settlement, including some tools that were used for agriculture, were found during a 2007 excavation. ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umayyad Period</td>
<td>661 AD to 750 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbasid Period*</td>
<td>750 AD to 1099 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crusades Period</td>
<td>1099 AD to 1187 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayyubid Period</td>
<td>1187 AD to 1250 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The site visit took place on Sunday, 23 December 2012. The identification of the pottery was conducted by Dr. Ahmed Rjoob and Mr. Mohammed Ghayada from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

² Also known as Iron Age III.
### Mamluk Period (1250 AD to 1516 AD)
- Remains of a human settlement, including some tools that were used for agriculture, were found during 2007 excavation.  

### Ottoman Period (1516 AD to 1917 AD)
- In 1556, Battir was mentioned in the registrar (sijil) because of a dispute over revenues between the inhabitants and the Ottomans. It also describes Battir as similar to the villages of Abu Dis and Ain Karem, and states that the farmers were harvesting barley and wheat (Singer, 1994).
- The construction of a train station in the valley along Jerusalem-Jaffa railway started in 1892.

### British Mandate (1917 AD to 1948 AD)
- During the British Mandate Period, Battir was the last stop before Jerusalem along the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway, and was tied to Jerusalem economically.

### Jordanian Jurisdiction (1948 AD to 1967 AD)
- Battir was cut off from Jerusalem by the Green Line in 1949, and was annexed to Bethlehem. The villagers used an old narrow dirt road to travel to Bethlehem.

### Israeli Occupation (1967 AD to Present)
- Battir remains a village in the Bethlehem Governorate and its inhabitants continue to sell the products of their land in Bethlehem as well as Jerusalem.

### Palestinian Authority (Autonomy) (1995 AD to Present)
- Battir remains an agricultural village, and thus maintains a tradition that has survived and proved its sustainability for the past 4,000 years.

---

### Table 1: Various Historical Periods and Their Associated Ruins within the WHP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mamluk Period                 | 1250 AD to 1516 AD| Remains of a human settlement, including some tools that were used for agriculture, were found during 2007 excavation.  

| Ottoman Period               | 1516 AD to 1917 AD| In 1556, Battir was mentioned in the registrar (sijil) because of a dispute over revenues between the inhabitants and the Ottomans. It also describes Battir as similar to the villages of Abu Dis and Ain Karem, and states that the farmers were harvesting barley and wheat (Singer, 1994).
| British Mandate              | 1917 AD to 1948 AD| During the British Mandate Period, Battir was the last stop before Jerusalem along the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway, and was tied to Jerusalem economically.  

| Jordanian Jurisdiction       | 1948 AD to 1967 AD| Battir was cut off from Jerusalem by the Green Line in 1949, and was annexed to Bethlehem. The villagers used an old narrow dirt road to travel to Bethlehem.  

| Israeli Occupation           | 1967 AD to Present| Battir remains a village in the Bethlehem Governorate and its inhabitants continue to sell the products of their land in Bethlehem as well as Jerusalem.  

| Palestinian Authority (Autonomy) | 1995 AD to Present| Battir remains an agricultural village, and thus maintains a tradition that has survived and proved its sustainability for the past 4,000 years.  

---

3 The Green Line is the name given to the 1949 Armistice line that constitutes the de facto borders of pre-1967 Israel. ([Glossary: Israel](https://www.loc.gov/rr/franmat/glossary.html))

4 The case of constructing the Separation Wall in the agricultural lands of Battir was brought to the High Court of Justice, and the decision was delayed until the middle of February 2013. ([Report](http://www.hadasht-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=1625&mag_id=117)).
The report concluded that the excavation exposed part of the agricultural complex on the edge of the ancient settlement and demonstrated that the farming terraces are the product of many generations of hard work that has continued until the present. The documented burial caves were dated to the periods that are represented on the tell and it seems that they are part of a large cemetery, which continues on top of the slope.

THE BRONZE AGE, IRON AGE, PERSIAN PERIOD, AND HELLENISTIC PERIOD

The location of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir and the availability of water have been two major factors that contributed to the creation of human settlements in the area. Archaeological remains found in the area, whether at the excavations at Khirbet Battir or along the valley, have revealed that these settlements belonged to different civilizations. Yet, it is difficult to determine the exact location where these settlements were located for two reasons. First, the remains that were found are relatively small, which may be explained by the remains having been carried by streams or floods from their original location. Second, the remains may have been intentionally moved from their original location and repurposed during construction of the area’s many manmade terraces.

The site is associated by many scholars with biblical Bether, the last stronghold of Bar Kokhba in his revolt against the Romans in 135 BC. Excavations in Khirbet Battir revealed findings that date back to the Canaanite Period. Excavations also made the significant discovery that, contrary to the common narrative of the site, it is actually an ancient Canaanite site, and is one of the largest excavated Middle Bronze Age sites in the region (Rapoport, 2006). Other excavations conducted in the valley have revealed remains that date back to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Persian, and Hellenistic Periods (Dagan, 2010).

ROMAN PERIOD

During the Roman Period, the agricultural area of the village was known as the ville or farm. The population of the ville varied between 100 and 1,000 inhabitants, and its area extended between 10 and 100 Dunums. During the Roman period, Battir was known as “Beth-ther.” Some researchers wrote that it meant the “impregnable fortress,” while others wrote that it meant the “corral” or the “fold of sheep.”

During the Roman Period, the fields were divided into three sections: One was planted with grains including corn, wheat, and barley; another was planted with vegetables; and the third was left for animal grazing. The majority of the villas, or farms, had water canals to facilitate the irrigation of the crops, and Battir was most likely one of those villages. The different sections were planted or left for grazing on a rotating basis (Shokeh, 2012). Perhaps one of the most interesting finds in Battir is the Warren Cup, a silver cup found at the beginning of the twentieth century that dates back to between 5 and 15 BC. The cup reflects the customs and attitudes of this historical context, and provides us with an important insight into the culture that made and used it (British Museum Collection, 2000).

5 One dunum = 1,000 square metres.
During the Roman Period, the fields were divided into three sections: One was planted with grains including corn, wheat, and barley; another was planted with vegetables; and the third was left for animal grazing. The majority of the villes, or farms, had water canals to facilitate the irrigation of the crops, and Battir was most likely one of those villages. The different sections were planted or left for grazing on a rotating basis (Shokeh, 2012). Perhaps one of the most interesting finds in Battir is the Warren Cup, a silver cup found at the beginning of the twentieth century that dates back to between 5 and 15 BC. The cup reflects the customs and attitudes of this historical context, and provides us with an important insight into the culture that made and used it (British Museum Collection, 2000).

THE ISLAMIC PERIOD (CALIPHATE, UMAYYAD, AND ABBASID PERIODS)
Agriculture was identified as the major activity throughout the Levant. Agricultural villages were located throughout Palestine, and the majority of resources indicate the original inhabitants did not leave, and were joined by Arab tribes.

Agriculture flourished around Jerusalem and Hebron, and the majority of the lands were planted with olives and figs. The farmers divided the land into two plots. One was cultivated and the other was kept uncultivated and was left for grazing. Sources mention that four villages to the south of Jerusalem—Battir, in addition to Artas, Al-Kahder, and Al-Walajeh—depended on springs for irrigating the fields, the majority of which were planted with olives (Shokeh, 2012).

THE CRUSADES PERIOD
Few documents have been discovered on the local population, villages, or rule in Palestine during this era, as it was based on a feudal system. The few archaeological remains that were found in the excavation of 2007, and remains of a crusade building overlooking the Ain al Balad, called locally “al Bobaira” 6 the fact that Jerusalem was a major centre during that period, indicate strongly that the property might have been inhabited during the Crusades Period.

MAMLUK PERIOD
The Mamluk rule has been identified as a military feudal system. During that period, a systematic reconstruction process took place throughout the villages that were located around Jerusalem and contained water resources.

6 MCP fieldwork observations 2017.
During that period, Battir became a waqif for Al-A’athamieh School in Jerusalem. The village continued to pay for this school until the Ottoman Period. The Sharia Court Registrar also recorded that farmers were treated as workers in their land by the religious and civil government (Sharia Court Registrar, 1530-1531).

Two earthquakes struck Palestine in the years 1458 and 1497, after which the inhabitants suffered from drought. During that time, they also suffered from compulsory military enlistment. According to historians, this period was one of the most severe to befall Palestine (Kark, R. and Oren-Nordheim, M., 2001).

OTTOMAN PERIOD

During the Ottoman Period, Battir was one of the nine villages of Beni Hassan, which were located to the southwest of Jerusalem, and one of 174 villages that were annexed to the Jerusalem Central Governorate (Nahiyat Al-Quds) (Al- Dabagh, 2002). Battir was reported to be an agricultural village from the early Ottoman Period onward. The villagers paid one-third of their revenues, as did those of Abu-Dis and Ain-Karem, to a Waqif. Its revenues belonged to timar then to ze’amet, and the village yielded a moderate production quantity. However, according to the Ottoman Registrar (sijill), the estimated revenues doubled between the surveys of 960 hijri and 970 hijri.

In August 1556, the village leaders were involved in a serious dispute over the revenues of Battir and payments due from them. The progress and resolution of this case demonstrates how the villagers could and did safeguard their interests with the help of the judge (kadi). Although this case was initiated by a complaint from the guardian (nazir) of the Waqif, the final decision favored the villagers (Singer-1994).

In his description of the area in 1839, during a trip that lasted for almost two hours, Robinson wrote: “In front of the village ‘Battir’ the whole Wadi turns short to the right, and then sweeps around again to the left in almost a semicircle, enclosing a large and high Tell, which is connected by a lower narrow ridge with the table land on the south. At the village which thus stands in an angle, is a large fountain, larger than the ones we have already seen in ‘Al-Walajeh village,’ and with water enough to turn a mill. Below the fountain are extensive gardens on terraces. There are marks upon the steep rocks near by, as if a channel had been once carried upon them: perhaps for a mill.” (Robinson, E., and Smith, E-1841).

THE RAILWAY

During the mid-nineteenth century, Dr. Conrad Schick, Sir Moses Montefiore, and other British notables initiated the idea of building a railway that linked the Mediterranean Coast with Jerusalem, but it was not until 1888 that the idea began to materialize. The franchise for laying the railway was obtained from the Ottoman government by Joseph Navon, but due financial difficulties, he sold the franchise to a French company which was set up to build the line, Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman de Jaffa à Jérusalem et Prolongements. The land on which the stations were built was purchased at a very high price by the railway company. The completed stations were equipped with telegraphs and water cisterns.

The Jaffa-Jerusalem railway had five stations between the two cities, including Al-Lydd, Al-Ramilla, Sajd, Deir Aban, and Battir, which was the last stop before Jerusalem. The three important stations along the route were Al-Lydd and Al-Ramila—because they were large cities—and Battir (Bittir). Battir was the most flourishing village in the southern part of Jerusalem, and it was known for its springs and vegetables.

7 A Waqif for waqf is typically a building or plot of land, but can also be a monetary resource, that is used for Muslim religious or charitable purposes under the context of an inalienable religious endowment “sadaqa.”
8 Two agricultural villages also annexed to Jerusalem.
9 1553 AD and 1563 AD.
10 Sajd Station was closed in 1915.
Figure 2. Rail Ticket, in French and Arabic (recto and verso). It is a pasteboard card measuring 1 3/16 by 2 ¼ inches (roughly sextodecimo), for the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railroad, 2nd Class, Palestine, no date. Punched and cancelled.

The opening of the French-built Jaffa-Jerusalem Railroad in 1892 meant that it was now much easier for pilgrims to come to and oranges to leave from Palestine. Tourists, especially from Europe, used the line to visit the Holy Land and travel to Jerusalem. It originally ran only once a day in each direction, although additional trips were added for the Easter holiday. However, it wasn’t long until the line was so popular that, by 1900, passenger traffic warranted two trains in each direction.

Figure 3. A Rare Travel Poster for the French Railway, depicting the road leading to the Jerusalem gate, a figure walking, and a figure on a donkey. An inset, “Bethleem” features a view of the main gate, a man leading a camel, and a man on a donkey leading a second donkey.

The construction of the railway station in the village of Battir reflects its significance. Villagers used the train to transport their goods from the village of Battir to Jerusalem, which was their most important market. The villagers continued to use the train until the 1948 war.

BRITISH MANDATE PERIOD
During the British Mandate Period, Battir was considered the vegetable basket of Jerusalem. The train station played an essential role in strengthening the relationship between the village and the city of Jerusalem. Inhabitants confirm that during the 1936 revolution, people came to the village using the train in order to shop for needed goods and produce. The system of irrigated terraces played an important role, not only in the economic life of the area, but also in determining the mobility of its inhabitants, who travelled daily to the markets in the District of Jerusalem.
After 1948 and the “temporary ejection” of its inhabitants, Battir village in the southern Jerusalem landscape found itself on the “Green Line.” Its inhabitants were able to make a complete return to the village thanks to the strategic political initiative of their local chief (mukhtar), Hassan Mustapha. Mustapha dedicated his efforts to guaranteeing the rights of the inhabitants of Battir to their land, and he was indeed able to obtain permission for the villagers to exercise their right to use the lands they owned despite their location behind the Armistice Line (Mostafa, 2017).

After the Jordanian-Israeli Armistice Agreement (1949), a progressive separation of the village from Jerusalem began with the closure of the Battir Railway Station. Since the 1950s, the village started to turn into an increasingly “Bethlehem-oriented” village, with the construction of its main road, a pathway historically not used, leading to Bethlehem.

**JORDANIAN JURISDICTION**

ISRAELI OCCUPATION PERIOD

Battir was totally annexed to Bethlehem, and its inhabitants continued to depend on agriculture as a major source of income despite many difficulties. They remained committed to living in peace and dedicated their time and effort to taking care of their lands. However, during this period, the entirety of their available market shifted from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, where the villagers sell their products today (MoTA, 2009).
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

In 2005, the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, was designated by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Palestine as a site that bears outstanding universal value in the prepared inventory. The property was considered one of the sites that represent Palestine, Land of Olives and Vines (MoTA, 2009).

Since then, efforts to preserve the property have been made by various stakeholders, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Ramallah. The Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Battir Village Council, and the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Bethlehem have all put enormous effort into preserving and promoting the site, raising awareness among the local community, and building the capacity of a local team that can contribute towards the preservation, promotion, and management of the property.

In 2010, an international jury granted the Battir Cultural Landscape File, submitted by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, the Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes. The prize was given to the Battir Village Council for the remarkable efforts that were made in order to safeguard an outstanding landscape that continues to be threatened by different factors that include the Separation Wall, the settlements, water loss and contamination, and the inability to maintain the agricultural terraces as a result of the geopolitical situation (Bader, 2017).
APPENDIX 3

TOURISM DYNAMICS OF THE WHP ASSESSMENT
TOURISTS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THE WHP, 2017

1. SURVEY METHODOLOGY
The on-site tourist survey was undertaken in the WHP with the aim of gathering more detailed and reliable data on tourists visiting the site. The random selection criterion was used to ensure that the sample is proportionally representative of all types of visitors. The project team, with the generous help of some students, distributed the questionnaires to visitors, who completed and returned them. All types of tourists were asked to respond to the questionnaires. Whenever tour groups were encountered, between one and three members of the group were randomly asked to answer the questionnaires.

The survey was conducted from January to April 2017 because these months mark the peak of the spring tourism season. A total of 230 questionnaires were randomly distributed to inbound and domestic tourists, with 185 (80%) questionnaires returned and considered valid and usable for data analysis.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY
The main objective of the visitor survey was to examine and gather data on the impact of tourist activities in the WHP, as follows:

1. To understand tourist profile characteristics.
2. To measure and analyze the impact of tourists on the local economy and on the state of conservation of the WHP features.
3. To review the tourism activities of the main cultural heritage features in the WHP.
4. To gather required data to better understand the needs and desires of tourists inside the WHP.
5. To obtain data on conservation and presentation requirements of the WHP.
6. To strategize and plan actions for improving the economic situation of the local community within the WHP.
7. To gather and analyze primary data to determine appropriate strategies and actions for management, conservation, and development of the WHP.

3. THE QUESTIONNAIRE
The on-site structured questionnaire was designed to solicit information on tourism activities, tourist characteristics, tourist views on conservation and interpretation dynamics, and other important details. It was also geared toward collecting specific data for helping to understand the current status of tourism and management of the WHP, as described in Appendix 3. The questionnaire was prepared for both local and international tourists in Arabic and English and coded with a reference serial number.

a. Description of the Questionnaire
The questionnaire was developed in English and Arabic to accommodate two types of tourists: inbound (foreign) and domestic (local) tourists. It covers six key subjects, as follows:

1. Tourist profile (demographics): describes age, gender, nationality, country of residence, occupation, etc.
2. Trip information: aim is to solicit information on travel patterns, purpose of the trip, trip length, activity participation, places visited, etc.
3. Information on tourism packages: attempts to capture information on nationalities of tour operators and their origin countries as a means to understand the dynamics of tourist packages to the WHP.
4. Available information on visitors existing knowledge about the WHP and their reason for visiting.
5. State of conservation and presentation of the WHP features: aims to explore the opinions of visitors regarding the conservation, maintenance, and presentation of the property.
6. Tourist expectations: seeks the general perspective of tourists across several dimensions with respect to the experience of the WHP, including their satisfaction with services offered, friendliness of local people, etc.

4. DATA ENTRY AND PROCESSING
All of the data collected was reviewed for completeness and then entered into Microsoft Excel. The workbook database was designed, in English, to mirror the questionnaire as closely as is allowed according to the program’s capability. Subsequently all collected data was digitized, entered manually using Microsoft Access software, and screened for possible entry errors. The software supports application of numerous data correlations and intersections through reports, queries, data filtering, and exporting into other formats including Excel, Word, and GIS. The Access software options, especially the cross table query wizard, were intensively used to correlate specific intersection data based on variables processed. The query was then exported to Excel and Word for further analysis.

5. SURVEY LIMITATIONS
The tourist survey was the first detailed survey conducted inside cultural heritage features of Battir that attempted to measure cultural heritage aspects from the perspective of inbound and domestic tourists. However, the assessment was confronted with the following limitations:

- The questionnaire was prepared in English and Arabic for all inbound and domestic tourists. Sometimes it was difficult for those who did not know one of these two languages, such as Russian tourists, to understand the survey questions.
- As most tourists took trips to the WHP as part of tourist groups, answers provided by members of the same group were sometimes very similar across certain variables, thus making the distinction between various variables less possible.
- The time limitation of tour trips to the WHP might have affected the quality of data collected; for example, a visit to the site that lasts less than one hour, did not give respondents enough time to appropriately respond to the questionnaires.
- The tour guides who accompanied tourist groups were mostly noncooperative and held negative attitudes regarding their group’s participation in the survey. Many were in a hurry and eager to leave the WHP for other destinations. As such, they did not encourage tourists to take the time to respond to the survey, whereas most tourists asked independently were pleased to fill questionnaires.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF THE TOURIST SURVEY IN THE WHP
The sample size of the survey is 185 tourist respondents. However, the percentage of domestic tourists was proportionately higher to that of inbound tourists. Results of the survey show that a total of 77% of respondents were domestic tourists and 23% were inbound tourists. These results are relatively consistent with the statistical data from the year 2016, taken from Battir Eco-Museum with slight differences. It shows that in 2016, there were 7,579 visitors to WHP through Eco-Museum, 24% of which were inbound, and 76% of which were domestic; while in 2017, 13,219 visitors came to WHP through the Eco-Museum, 21% of them were inbound.
From January to April 2017, the time of conducting this survey, 6,500 person visited WHP through Eco-Museum, a substantial increase of (193%) over previous year. The survey results also indicate that the vast majority of the WHP’s visitors were domestic tourists (77%) compared to 23% inbound tourists.

Results of the survey indicate that the majority of respondents (71%) were first-time visitors to the WHP, while 29% indicated that they visited WHP previously. Indeed, the feedback of tourists on this aspect is extremely important to improve more meaningful and attractive cultural and tourist attributes, enhancing tourists experience and encouraging them to repeat their visit to the WHP. Frequency of visit is, however, different between inbound and domestic visitors: over a third of domestic tourists (33%) indicated that they visited the WHP at least once before, whereas the vast majority of inbound visitors (85%) indicated that it was their first time visiting the WHP.
Nationalities of Tourists (Country of Origin)
The results of the survey demonstrate that tourists from 12 foreign nationalities visited the WHP throughout the time that the survey was conducted. As shown in Figure 4 below, 68% of inbound tourists came from four countries, namely France, Germany, the United States of America, and Japan. Approximately 41% of respondents were French, the highest percentage of any country, followed by Germans (12%), Americans (7%), and Japanese (7%), while the remainder (33%) represented eight mostly European nationalities.

![Nationality of WHP Visitors](image)

Figure 4. Nationality of Inbound Visitors to the WHP

Category of Visitors in the WHP
Results of the survey indicate that there are at least six categories of tourists that visited the WHP, the vast majority of which were those travelling in groups (49%), with another 26% travelling as friends, 14% travelling alone, 3% travelling as couples, 4% travelled in family groups, and 4% travelling in organized tour groups, the lowest percentage of any category. To clarify this important factor, it is critical to examine these variables within the context of the tourists’ place of origin (i.e., whether they are inbound or domestic visitors). That breakdown is provided below.

1. Inbound tourists: results indicate that the majority of foreign tourists (34%) travelled in organized tour groups, followed by those travelling alone (27%), those travelling in groups (12%), friends groups (12%) and couples (15%). However, school student trips were 0% at the time of the survey.
2. Domestic tourists: the majority of domestic tourists (54%) travelled in organized groups, which is similar to the inbound tourists, followed by groups of friends (29%), alone (12%), and family groups (5%).

![Categories of Domestic Visitors](image)

Figure 5. Categories of Domestic Visitors
**Visit Organization**

Over half of tourist respondents (53%) indicated that they independently organized and reserved their trips, while 30% booked their trips through travel agencies or tour operators, followed by groups affiliated with schools or universities (8%), and volunteer works (9%).

![Visit Organization graph]

**Figure 6. Visit Organization**

It was very clear that trip organization variables diverged significantly between inbound and domestic visitors. As shown in Figure 7 below, half (49%) of inbound respondents arranged their trips through travel agencies or tour operators, presumably in most instances from their countries of residence; 44% reported that they arranged their trips independently; and another 7% arranged their trips to the WHP through other means.

![Inbound Tourists Visit Organization graph]

**Figure 7. Visit Organization of Inbound Tourists**

As shown in Figure 8 below, the majority (55%) of domestic tourists arranged their visit on their own, which was the opposite for inbound tourists, who generally organized their trips through tour operators; followed by those organized their trips through tour operators (24%); 10% organized their trip through their university; 5% of respondents organized their visit as a volunteer activity; and 6% organized their visits through other means.
Appendices & Annexes 2018

Nationality of Travel Agencies and Tour Operators
29% of the inbound visitors to the WHP purchased their tourist packages from Palestinian tour operators, 24% from travel agencies and tour operators in their countries of residence, and 15% from Israeli tour operators.

Modes of Transportation to the WHP
Results of the survey show that the most frequently used mode of transportation to arrive at the WHP was a tour bus (70%); another 28% of tourists walked to reach the WHP; 27% travelled via public buses; 11% others used rented or private cars, which was the typical mode of transportation used for groups of friends and families; and 15% travelled in taxis. Indeed, these results might reflect the fact that public transportation serves the property.

As previously shown in Figure 8, only 24% of domestic tourists arranged their trips to the WHP through tour operators or travel agencies. Over half (55%) of domestic visitors arranged their visit by themselves. This indicates again that organized domestic tour packages are underdeveloped in the WHP.
Results of this survey confirm that most visitors know that the site is a World Heritage Property. More than two-thirds (81%) of all tourist respondents indicated that they know that Battir is a World Heritage Property.

This section of the survey explored the tourists’ motives for taking trips to the WHP, which were indicated by respondents through a pre-prepared list of options. To reduce the number of motives and purposes of visit, the responses were tabulated and ordered into four categories: World Heritage Property, academic and professional interest, cultural interest, recreational trip, and other reasons. Accordingly, the majority of respondents (46%) indicated a high desire to visit the cultural heritage property; 27% indicated that they wanted to visit the WHP; the remainder (31%) visited the site for other reasons, such as academic and professional interests (6%), school and university trips (11%), volunteer works (5%), and other reasons (7%).
**Length of Stay in the WHP**
Length of stay is always a significant factor in any tourism study, providing essential information to the planners and decision-makers of cultural heritage and tourism assets. In this respect, more than one-third of respondents (36%) stated that they took day trips to the WHP, which lasted between 4 and 6 hours; followed by 31% of visitors, who spent between 1 and 3 hours; 17% stayed for one day without staying overnight in the WHP; and 16% stayed for more than one day. In sum, the vast majority of tourists (67%) spent just few hours in WHP.

![Duration of Visit](image)

**Overnights Spent in the WHP**
As noted previously, the vast majority of respondents (67%) took day trips to the WHP, whereas, as shown in Figure 13 above, overnight trips were taken by few tourists. Only 16% of respondents stayed for at least one night and 13% stayed for 2-4 nights in WHP, compared to 71% who did not stay overnight.

![Overnights in the WHP](image)

**Pre-Information and Knowledge about the WHP**
Results of the survey show that visitors to the WHP learned about its cultural heritage through various means, including tourism flyers, friends, social media (Facebook), newspapers, books, travel brochures, tour operators’ guidance, school, media, etc. One-fifth of respondents (21%) indicated that they discovered the WHP through social media, television, and friends; 14% discovered the WHP on the internet; 5% through travel brochures and tour operators; 7 % through newspaper; and 5% through books.
Preferred Cultural and Tourist Activities in the WHP

Tourist respondents participated in several cultural and recreational activities in the WHP including cultural, volunteer, entertainment, or academic activities, or a combination of multiple types of activities. Although significant differences between inbound and domestic tourists were found, the majority of tourists had a clear cultural heritage focus, as is described in more detail below.

1. Inbound Tourists

The most common activities undertaken by inbound tourists were hiking and walking using traditional hiking trails within the WHP (27%), while another large portion of the inbound visitors came to eat local food (17%) and go sightseeing (17%) and indicated that they travelled to the WHP to visit cultural heritage sites and take part in some recreational activities (e.g., shopping and walking). The remainder accounted for a smaller percentage of visitors who indicated that they made their trip to the WHP to engage in other activities, including biking (12%), wildlife viewing (12%), visiting local communities and the World Heritage Property (12%); and another 3% of respondents stated that their visit was made only to participate in volunteer activities. Indeed, taken together, the results of the three first groups (hiking, sightseeing, and eating local food), lead to a total sum of (61%), which means that the vast majority of inbound tourists made their trips to experience the site, hike within it, and eat local food, while fewer of them were likely to visit local communities and engage in other activities.

2. Domestic Tourists

More than half of the domestic tourist respondents (54%) indicated that the most common activities sought were hiking and sightseeing within the WHP. The next most common activities according to the respondents were to eat local food (13%) and go biking (13%), compared to 11% who made their trip to visit archaeological sites. The remainder came to the WHP as volunteers or to capture photos. This indicates that most domestic tourists are attracted to the WHP because of its recreational facilities. They prefer to spend the day hiking, visiting archaeological sites, and eating local food.
Tourist Ages

Tourist respondents tended not to reply to questions related to their age; however, because age is a central determining criterion of proper management of cultural heritage significance and tourism product offerings, it is therefore important to collect this data. For example, elderly visitors are generally less likely to attend rock music concerts or go rock climbing, which might interest younger visitors. Whereas elderly visitors might like to go shopping, visit cultural heritage sites, etc. These age difference in preference and experience are certainly relevant to the WHP. Results of the survey found a significant difference in the age between inbound and domestic tourists, as described below.

1. Inbound Tourists

As shown in Figure 18 below, a quarter of respondents (24%) were between the ages of 19 and 29 years old, one-fifth (22%) were between 30 and 40 years old, 20% were between 41 and 50 years old, and 20% were between 51 and 60 years old. 7% of inbound tourist were under 18 years old and 7% were over 60 years old. Adding together the values of the four largest groups, it emerges that a significant number of the WHP’s inbound tourists (86%) are between the ages of 19 and 60 years old. Therefore in this case, the tourism facilities in the WHP should be consistently well equipped to serve the full range of ages.

2. Domestic Tourists

In contrast to inbound tourists, over half of domestic respondents (63%) were youths between the ages of 19 and 29 (36%), or under 18 years old (27%), followed by those between 41 and 50 years old (14%), and those between 30 and 40 years old (10%). 8% of visitors were between 51 and 60 years old, and 5% were over 60 years old, which constitutes the smallest age group. A percentage of 63% is derived from the sum of the values of the two largest age groups, implying that the majority of local tourists are youths under 29 years old.
Results of the survey indicate that slightly more males (51%) than females (49%) visited the WHP. However, this ratio varies somewhat between inbound and domestic tourist respondents: the gender ratio of inbound tourists was similar to the total proportion (i.e., 49% female and 51% male), and the domestic respondents were 50% male and 50% female.

The survey results show that the tourist respondents represented a range of professions, including students, nurses, lawyers, engineers, teachers, and others. The top five most common professionals were students (69%), teachers (27%), engineers (10%), doctors (8%), and tour guides (8%).
Level of Education

From the survey data, it seems that tourists who visit the WHP are well educated: about two-thirds of respondents (56%) held a university degree, meaning a bachelor’s or more advanced degree. However, results of the survey indicate that the level of education was different between inbound and domestic tourists, as described subsequently.

1. **Inbound Tourists**

   The vast majority of inbound tourists held academic degrees. Indicating their most-advanced level of education: 24% responded that they held an advanced graduate or professional degree (i.e., beyond bachelor-level), 42% held a bachelor’s degree, 12% received some form of vocational education/accreditation above high school, and 10% held a high school diploma. The remainder were in the process of finishing or had not finished either high school or grade school.

![figure 22. Level of Education of Inbound Visitors](image)

2. **Domestic Tourists**

   The education level of domestic tourists was lower than that of inbound tourists surveyed. Only 16% of domestic tourists held a graduate or professional degree compared with 24% for inbound tourists, 38% of domestic respondents held a bachelor’s degree, and 8% received a vocational education. The remainder (46%) held a high school diploma (8%), or had not finished high school (26%) or grade school (4%).

![figure 23. Level of Education of Domestic Visitors](image)
Assessment of Visitor Perceptions about the WHP

Several questions were asked to measure the visitors’ experience at the WHP, their attitudes and viewpoints toward the WHP’s tourism services and attractions. The tourists reacted each of these questions using a 5-item response scale: “Excellent,” “Good,” “Bad,” “Very Bad,” and “None.” However, during data processing, it was determined that the category “Very Bad” should be combined with “Bad” because there were very few instances “Very Bad” within the data.

1. Accessibility of the WHP

Results of the survey show that over half of tourists (64%) deemed the accessibility of the WHP to be “Excellent,” 33% considered it “Good,” and 2% deemed it “Bad.” Responses of

![Site Accessibility](image)

Figure 24. Site Accessibility

2. Presentation and Interpretation of Cultural Heritage Features

Figure 25 below shows that more than half tourists (53%) deemed the presentation and interpretation of the sites in the WHP as “Excellent,” 41% rated them “Good,” and 6% “Bad.” Responses of tourists were very positive because most of them were part of tourist groups who had tour guides.

![Cultural Heritage Presentation & Interpretation](image)

Figure 25. Cultural Heritage Presentation and Interpretation

3. Maintenance of Cultural Heritage Features

This question aimed at exploring the perspectives of tourist respondents on the state of conservation of the WHP components. Despite the fact that these responses expressed the subjective opinions of various tourist respondents (not professionals), they reflect the quality of the experience that tourists received while visiting the WHP, and provide some important clues for cultural heritage and tourism managers and planners on the state of the property and what ought to be done to make visits more attractive and meaningful for tourists.
Results of the survey show that 23% of tourist respondents evaluated the state of conservation as “Bad,” compared to 36% and 41% who rated it “Good” and “Excellent,” respectively. Over two-thirds of respondents (77%) reported that the state of conservation of the WHP was “Good” and “Excellent” compared to 23%, who rated it “Bad.”

While these responses are encouraging, they do not adequately reflect the state of conservation as determined by experts on the ground. In fact, the WHP is severely in need of conservation interventions due to the fast rate of deterioration of its features and monuments. That said, visitors acknowledged the general situation of the WHP’s cultural heritage sites, which are in need of intervention.

4. Personal Safety
The vast majority of tourists positively evaluated their sense of personal safety and security within the WHP: 42% rated it as “Good” and 44% as “Excellent,” while only 14% stated that it was “Bad.” This means that most tourist respondents considered the WHP as a safe and stable place to visit and might feel comfortable staying for a while. This result is an important indicator for tourism planners and decision-makers for developing the WHP into an attractive tourist destination, where tourists can visit for both day and overnight trips.

5. Friendliness of Local People
The vast majority of tourist respondents (94%) positively evaluated the friendliness of local people (38% as “Good” and 56% as “Excellent”), while only 6% rated it “Bad.” These results provide another very positive indication about the WHP. That is, the WHP is viewed favourably as a safe and friendly destination for both inbound and local tourists.
6. Local Cuisine/Food and Drink

The overwhelming majority of respondents (93%; 52% “Excellent” and 41% “Good”) enjoyed the local cuisine of the WHP, with only 7% rating it as “Bad.” This might be due to the traditional foods and drinks that most visitors eat while visiting the WHP.

7. Tourist Information Services

Results of the survey indicate that 42% of tourists rated tourist information services inside the WHP as “Excellent,” 36% rated them “Good,” and 16% rated them as “Bad,” and another 6% said “None.” These results might imply that most of tourists felt satisfied with their visit due to the availability of information services offered to them, including brochures, leaflets, site plans, and other resources.
8. **Maintenance and Convenience of Tourist Facilities**

About half of tourist respondents (41%) rated the convenience of tourist facilities in the WHP “Excellent,” 36% rated them “Good,” and 23% “Bad.” However, these responses are do not reflect the reality on the ground, where the condition of the facilities are in fact quite poor, and visibly so. For example, while the survey was being administered, many visitors were heard complaining about the lack of toilets and drinking water.

![Maintenance of Tourist Facilities](image1)

**Figure 31.** Maintenance of Tourist Facilities

9. **Local Service Personnel’s Knowledge of Foreign Languages**

The vast majority of tourist respondents (66%; 28% “Good” and 38% “Excellent”) positively rated the knowledge of foreign languages of the local service personnel working inside the WHP, especially in reference to receptionists, with whom they mostly dealt. 34% respondents gave a negative assessment.

![Service Personnel’s Knowledge of Foreign Languages](image2)

**Figure 32.** Service Personnel’s Knowledge of Foreign Languages

10. **Facilities for Children**

Although some tourist respondents evaluated the facilities for children inside the WHP as “Good” (19%) or “Excellent” (31%), the vast majority (50%) chose “Bad” and “None” for this question, as this service does not exist in the WHP. In fact, this question was designed to gather opinions of groups of tourist families about such facilities in general.
11. Shopping Opportunities

There are a small number of shopping facilities in the WHP area; however, results of the survey show that 18% of tourist respondents rated the shopping opportunities in the WHP as "Bad," while 32% and 24% of respondents stated that they were "Excellent" and "Good," respectively, and another 26% said "None." These results might indicate that the quality and quantity of these shopping centers in the WHP area are not adequately developed to satisfy tourists’ shopping desires. In this context, while the survey was being administered, many tourists were overheard complaining of high prices and poor-quality food, describing the WHP’s tourist businesses in quite negative terms.

12. Convenience and Accessibility of Local Transportation

It might not have been easy for respondents to evaluate the quality and quantity of available local transportation in the WHP, as most of tourists responded that they accessed the WHP via organized tour buses. This likely explains why more than half of tourist respondents (65%) did not reply to this question. 14% of responses indicated that the transportation modes were “Bad,” while the vast majority (86%) gave positive responses (50% and 36% “Excellent” and “Good,” respectively).
13. WHP Visit Satisfaction
The vast majority of tourist respondents (98%) indicated a high level of satisfaction with their visit, while just 2% were not satisfied.

14. Recommending the WHP to Friends
Results of the survey indicate that the vast majority of respondents (98%) were likely to recommend the WHP to their friends as a place to visit, whereas just 2% said that they might not recommend it to a friend.
Conclusion

The following strengths were identified based on the results of the survey and tourism dynamics assessment:

- Battir is a new tourist destination with a small amount of tourist services; tourism products are based on the site’s remarkable cultural landscape and identity.
- There are a number of independent initiatives (e.g., Battir 2020) that work to market the property.
- There are a number of accessible promotional materials and websites that present and market the property.
- The WHP is open for individuals to develop private investments and personal projects aimed at serving tourists, including restaurants, guesthouses, souvenir and other shops, parks, and traditional/historical museums.
- The Battir Eco-Museum should be enhanced to be a visitor center that receives tourists.
- Locally made products and handicrafts are produced and sold in the WHP.
- Social media is a very important tool for promotion of the site.

However, the following weaknesses were also encountered:

- The tourism infrastructure in the WHP is weak and inadequate for catering to various types of visitors.
- There are no designated tourist walking/hiking trails in the WHP.
- The urban environment of Battir and the surrounding cultural landscape suffer from excessive trash accumulation and unclean areas caused by visitors and locals.
- The presence of some visitors had a negative impact on the WHP, such as when crossing the railway track or destroying agricultural lands and crops.
- There are limited cultural events, activities, and entertainment opportunities offered in the WHP.
- Signage and information panels throughout the WHP are inconsistent and do not meet proper standards.
- The annual governmental budgets do not allocate enough funds for the WHP.
APPENDIX 4
VISITOR’S QUESTIONNAIRE
VISITOR QUESTIONNAIRE – BATTIR 2017

Thank you for participating in our visitor survey. Your responses are very important for conserving and developing the World heritage property in Battir. Please be assured that your responses will be held in confidence.

1) Is this your first time visiting Battir?
☐ Yes ☐ No

2) What is your Nationality & where do you live?

3) Are you travelling: ☐ Alone ☐ Travel group ☐ a couple ☐ With friends
☐ With family ☐ Other, please specify…………………………

4) How did you organize your visit?
☐ Travel agent/tour operator ☐ Personal direct reservations
☐ Other way, please specify………………

5) In case travel agency, what is its nationality?
☐ Local agency in my country ☐ Palestinian ☐ Israeli
☐ Other, please specify………………

6) What was your main mode of transportation to this site? (please choose one)
☐ Personal/rented car ☐ Tour bus ☐ Public bus services ☐ Taxi ☐ Walking
☐ Other, please specify………………

7) Do you know that Battir is a world heritage site?
☐ Yes ☐ No

8) Why do you have visited Battir?
☐ Cultural interest ☐ World Heritage Site ☐ Professional interest ☐ School trip
☐ Academic Research ☐ Business ☐ Other, please specify ……………

9) How long will you be visiting Battir? (please choose one)
☐ 1-3 hours ☐ 4-6 hours ☐ For the day ☐ More than one day (please specify)………………

10) How many overnights did you spend or are you going to spend in Battir?
☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 2-4 ☐ None ☐ Other, please specify…………………….

11) How did you hear about Battir’s world heritage site? (please choose one or more)
☐ Television ☐ Newspaper ☐ Internet ☐ Travel brochure ☐ Tour operator
☐ Friend ☐ School ☐ Books ☐ Social media ☐ Other, please specify………………

12) What activities have you been doing or will do while being in this area? (please check all that apply)
☐ Hiking ☐ Wildlife viewing ☐ Biking ☐ Eating local food
☐ Visiting local communities ☐ Sightseeing ☐ Visiting world cultural heritage sites
☐ Shopping ☐ Drawing ☐ Other, please specify…………………………

13) Did you face any obstacles in coming to Battir?
☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes please specify?………………………………………………………………………………

14) Your approximate age is:
☐ Less than 18 years ☐ Between 19-29 years ☐ Between 30- 40 years
☐ Between 41- 50 years ☐ 51- 60 years ☐ Over 60

15) Please check one: ☐ Male ☐ Female

16) What is your profession?

17) What is the highest level of education that you completed?
☐ Grade School ☐ High School ☐ Vocational/ Trade School
☐ College Diploma ☐ Bachelor ☐ Post-Graduate ☐ None

Thank you for your kind cooperation
18.) How would you evaluate the following aspects while your visit to Battir?
(Please tick the answer that represents your evaluation of each factor)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Very bad</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Products, services &amp; Hospitality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessibility to World heritage site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation &amp; Interpretation of World heritage site features</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance of World heritage site features</td>
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<td>safety &amp; security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friendliness of the people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local cuisine/drinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourist information services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance and convenience of tourist facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of foreign languages of the local service personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities for children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shopping opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convenience and access to local transportation.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19) In general, did the visit have satisfied you?
☐ Yes  ☐ No
If No why? ………………………………………………………

20) Would you recommend that a friend of yours visit Battir?
☐ Yes  ☐ No
If No why? ………………………………………………………

21) You might write your e-mail address if you like to provide us with
further information or be involved in future e-Surveys

22) Do you have any comment or recommendation you wish to add?

Thank you for your kind co-operation
بلدى، ولكي على المشاركة في تفهيم هذا الاستبيان، يُفضل أن يكون لديك صلاحيات ومسؤولاً.

الرقم المتسلسل ➤ ➤ التاريخ ➤ 2017

| السؤال                                                                 | الجواب
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) هل هذه هي المرة الأولى التي تزور فيها موقع بيتير؟</td>
<td>لا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) ما هي جنسيتك وأي تسلق؟</td>
<td>فですか/أ  فلسطيني</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) هل حضرت لهذا الموقع:  ندوب   بمجموعة   برحلة عائلية   بمجموعة أصدقاء</td>
<td>اخرى، برجي التحديد</td>
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<td>(4) كيف نظمت زيارةك؟ من خلال شركة سياحة وسفر بشكل شخصي وباشر غير ذلك، برجي التحديد</td>
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<td>(5) إذا قمت زيارةك من خلال شركة سياحة وسفر، ما هي جنسيتها؟ فلسطينية/ إسرائيلية</td>
<td>غير ذلك، برجي التحديد</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6) ما هي وسيلة النقل الرئيسية التي استخدمتها للوصول لهذا الموقع؟ (رجعي اختيار واحدة)</td>
<td>سيارة خاصة، تكسي، حافلة سياحية، حافلة موصلات عامة، مشي، أخرى، برجي التحديد</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) هل تعلم أن بيتير موقع تراث عالمي؟ لا</td>
<td>برجي التحديد</td>
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<tr>
<td>(8) لماذا قمت بزيارة بيتير؟ (رجعي اختيار واحد) اهتمام تفكيك موقع تراث عالمي، برلمان مسيرة، برلمان مسيرة، غير ذلك، برجي التحديد</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) المدة الزمنية لزيارتك بيتير؟ (رجعي اختيار واحد) 1-3 ساعات</td>
<td>4-6 ساعات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) كم عدد الليالي التي قضيتها أو توقع قضائها في بيتير؟ 1 2 3 4-2 2 ولا ليلة</td>
<td>غير ذلك، برجي التحديد</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) كيف سمعت بموقع بيتير؟ (رجعي اختيار واحد)</td>
<td>برجي التحديد</td>
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<td>(12) ما هي الأنشطة التي عمتها أو توقع عملها خلال زيارةك لبيتير؟ (الرجوع الإشارة لكل ما ينطبق) مشاهدة الحياة البرية، رؤيا الدرجات، زيارة المجتمعات المحلية، الرسم، التدوين لمشاهدة مناظر ومعالم ووراثة عالمية، زيارة مواقع آثرية، التسوق، حضور أنشطة ثقافية، الأول والثاني، أخرى، برجي التحديد</td>
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<tr>
<td>(13) عمرك التقريبي هو: أقل من 18 سنة 19-29 سنة 30-39 سنة 40-50 سنة 51-60 سنة</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14) برجي الإشارة لواحدة: ذكر أبنية</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15) ما هو أعلى مستوى من التعليم الذي أنجزت؟ تعليم مدرسي أساسي، تعليم مدرسي ثانوي، تعليم مهني، دبلوم كلية، بكالوريوس</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16) ما هي مهنتك؟ دراسات عليا، بلا</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(17) ملاحظات أو تعليقات أخرى.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

استبيان زوار بيتير (2017)
18) كيف تقيم الجوانب التالية من خلال زيارة كيبر؟

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>الموضوع</th>
<th>غير موجود</th>
<th>سمى</th>
<th>جديد</th>
<th>منتز</th>
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<td>سهولة الوصول إلى الموقع</td>
<td>طريقة عرض و تحويلت ملاحم ومعالم الموقع</td>
<td>حالة معالج الموقع وصيانةها</td>
<td>معالجات وتفاعل المجمعي المحلي</td>
<td>تغير الماكولات و المشروبات المحلية</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(19) بصفة عامة، هل أنت راضي عن زيارة كيبر لموقع التراث العالمي في بتيبر؟
لا □ نعم □

إذا كانت الإجابة لا لماذا؟

(20) هل توصيك صديقك بزيارة بتيبر؟
لا □ نعم □

إذا كانت الإجابة لا لماذا؟

(21) هل ترغب في كتبية عنوان بريدك الإلكتروني للاستلاغ كيبر في حالة احتمالي من المعلومات أو طلبًا أن تشارك في استطلاع الرأي الإلكتروني؟

(22) هل لديك أي تعليق أو توصية ترغب في إضافته؟

شكرًا لك على حسن تعاونكم.
Discussion Issues on Facebook

Marwa Adwan

26 فبراير، الساعة 10:11

السلام عليكم,

في إطار إعداد خطة ادارية وحفاظية خاصة بموقع (فلسطين ارض العرب و الزيتون مدرجات جنوب القدس) عن طريق وزارة السياحة و الادارة والتعاون مع بلدية بيت لاهيا لانشاء الموقع و ازالتة من قائمة التهديدات العالمية بالخطر فاننا الآن بمرحلة تحديد قيم الموقع المختلفة للمحافظة عليها و تعبيها و تحفتها من خلال اقتراح استراتيجيات ومشاريع تنفيذ تلك.

لذا نرجو منكم التكرم بتبديه الاستطلاع المرفق للتصويت لقيمة التي تجدوها متوفرة و مهمة في الموقع.

1. الفم الاجتماعي والاجتماعية كالزراعة والسياحة
2. الفم التاريخية و الادارية
3. الفم العلمية و المعمارية و البنية و التربوية
4. الفم الطبيعية كالتنوع الحيوي و التكوين الجيولوجي و العناصر النباتية
5. الفم الدينية كالمعمقات و المقابر و المساجد
6. الفم الثقافية و المجتمعية

تعليـق

نوفمبر 2019

11 من الأشخاص الآخرين: Samah Abu Nemah و Mai Shami
السلام عليكم

في إطار اعداد خطة ادارية وحماية نسخة موقعة (فلسطين جنوب الوادي) عن طريق وزارة السياحة والآثار، وبالتعاون مع بلدية بيت لاتبعاً للاعداد الموقعية، وازالتها من قائمة التراث العالمي المهدد بالخطر، فإننا الآن بمرحلة تحديد قيم الموقع المختارة للمحافظة عليها وتقليدها ودعمها من خلال إنشاء استراتيجيات ومشاريع لتحقيق ذلك.

لذا نرجو منكم التكرم بعبوة الاستطلاع الموقف بالتصويت لتقييم قيمة الموقع من ناحية متوفرة و مهمة في الموقع.

مع الشكر الجزيل

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46

Appendices & Annexes 2018
APPENDIX 5
PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES ASSESSMENT WATCHTOWERS, DRY STONE WALLS, & IRRIGATION SYSTEM
1. INTRODUCTION

Assessment of the physical attributes of the WHP’s OUV is the most important phase of the preparation of the MCP. It is used to determine the features’ state of conservation and consequently identify appropriate conservation objectives, strategies and actions that secure their authenticity and integrity. The assessment was carried out through an extensive field survey of the prevailng physical features of the landscape with the aim of collecting additional data needed to better understand their state of conservation. The field survey used an orthogonal aerial photo (2016) for the WHP, divided into A3 sheets on scale 1:2000, a GPS, and a digital camera. Collected data was processed by the GIS software to develop thematic maps that help identify and assess the state of conservation of the physical attributes, and subsequently develop conservation and protection objectives, strategies and actions.

2. FIELD SURVEY OF THE WATCHTOWERS

The field survey examined the state of conservation of the watchtowers with a data sheet designed to facilitate their assessment. The sheet helped collect data on the current condition of each watchtower, including its type, building materials, number of floors, its overall state of conservation, and required interventions.

An orthogonal aerial photo was used for the watchtowers and divided into 28 A3 sheets on scale 1:2500. Each watchtower had a designated data sheet where its data was housed throughout the field survey. 212 out of 256 watchtowers were identified and assessed. The majority is deteriorated and suffers from a critical state of conservation.

The collected data was reviewed for completeness and then entered into Excel sheets, designed to be as similar to the data sheet as the program’s limits would allow. Subsequently, all collected data was digitized and processed by the GIS software. The software supports the application of numerous data correlations and intersections via maps, queries, data filtering, and exporting data to other formats including Excel, maps, PDF, and AutoCAD.

The field survey of the watchtowers was the first detailed survey conducted in the WHP. It was confronted with limitations, including the following:

- Most of the watchtowers are built on higher parts of the sloped agricultural fields, and consequently took a lot of time and effort to reach and assess.
- The Israeli occupation closed off a large number of watchtowers or prevented the survey team from approaching them.
- Some of watchtowers are closed by their owners, which halted their assessment.

2.1 Results of the Field Survey

The survey assessed 212 watchtowers: 91% (193) of them are still in existence, while 9% (19) are damaged or destroyed.
Types of Watchtowers

Results of the survey indicate that there are three types of watchtowers in the WHP: 42% are quadrilateral, 37% are solid stone heaps, and 21% are round watchtowers.

Figure 1. Existing Watchtowers

Figure 2. Types of Watchtowers

Figure 3. Solid Stone Heaps Watchtower
Figure 4. Round Watchtower
Floors of Watchtowers
Results of the survey indicate that there are three types of watchtowers in the WHP: 42% are quadrilateral, 37% are solid stone heaps, and 21% are round watchtowers.

Use of Watchtowers
During the time that the survey was conducted (October to December 2017), 46 watchtowers (approximately 24%) were used or seasonally inhabited by their owners; however the vast majority (76%) was abandoned.
State of Conservation of the Watchtowers

Results of the survey indicate that the vast majority of assessed watchtowers (63%) are in a critical state of conservation and in urgent need of conservation interventions, while 37% have been restored by their owners using incompatible materials (e.g. concrete, plastic, and steel). It is worth noting that the Israeli authorities prevent farmers from restoring their watchtowers. The occupation demolished two watchtowers located in the Wadi al-Makhrour because their owners restored them.
Building Materials of the Watchtowers
Results of the survey show that the majority of watchtowers (94%) were built from natural field stones and traditional materials.

New Structures Added to the Watchtowers
Results of the survey indicate that 64% of the restored towers have no new additional structures, while more than one-fifth (22%) have concrete structures that were added recently, and 10% have additional steel features either on the roof or in the openings.
Appendices & Annexes 2018

Figure 12. New Structures Added to the Watchtowers

Assessment of the Current State of Conservation

The state of conservation of the watchtowers is segmented into five categories: very poor (10-15%), poor (15-30%), fair (30-45%), good (45-60%), and very good (60-80%). This rating scale was created through consideration of several factors, such as the structural situation, the overall status, building materials, the compatibility of building materials and additions, and its relation to the surrounding environment. Results of the survey demonstrate that 42% of the assessed watchtowers are in a very poor and poor condition, while 29% are in a fair condition, and about one-third (18% and 11%) are in a good and very good condition, respectively.
New Structures Added to the Watchtowers

Results of the survey indicate that 64% of the restored towers have no new additional structures, while more than one-fifth (22%) have concrete structures that were added recently, and 10% have additional steel features either on the roof or in the openings.

Figure 14. Assessment of Current State of Conservation of the Watchtowers

Figure 15. Watchtower in Fair Condition
Figure 16. Watchtower in Poor Condition

Figure 17. Watchtower in Very Poor Condition

Figure 18. Watchtower in Good Condition
Figure 19. Watchtower in Very Good Condition

Figure 20. Field Survey of the Watchtowers
3. FIELD SURVEY OF THE DRY STONE WALLS

The field survey examined the state of conservation of the dry stone walls with a large number of pre prepared maps designed to facilitate their assessment. The survey helped to collect general data on the current condition of the dry stone walls, including its current state of conservation and building materials, in addition to deterioration agents.

An orthogonal aerial photo was used for the dry stone walls and divided into more than 100 A3 sheets on scale 1:2000. Each dry stone wall was given a photo and assessment data sheet where its data was housed throughout the field survey. The majority are in a good state of conservation.

The survey concluded that the dry-stone walls of WHP are deteriorating due to numerous human and natural factors. The human factors are defined as follows:

- Land-use patterns of direct surroundings.
- Inadequate infrastructure.
- Lack of maintenance of cultural and natural qualities of the cultural landscape.
- Incompatibility of restoration materials.
- Decline of agricultural land due to the lack of official attention given to rural areas.
- Lack of essential medical and educational facilities.
- Decline of the socio-economic status and lack of economic opportunities available for the local community caused by emigration from the countryside to the cities.

The natural factors include the effects of rainfall, soil erosion, vegetation, wind, fluctuation in temperature, climate change, forestation, and wildlife activities—especially when the wildlife build their homes inside the dry stone walls.

The field survey of the dry stone walls was not conducted in depth and many details were not able to be investigated fully. The survey was confronted with limitations, including the following:

- The total length of the dry stone walls within the property exceeds 600,000 meters, and a detailed assessment of this large area could not be completed within the limited time and budgets allotted for the preparation of the Management Plan (12 months and USD 30,000 budget).
- The Israeli occupation prevented the survey team from reaching several agricultural lands and assessing the dry stone walls incorporated within them.
- Some of the dry stone walls are built on higher parts of the sloped hills and mountains, and consequently took a lot of time and effort to reach and assess.

As a result, in depth assessment and documentation are planned to be conducted in the future in order to obtain more details about the dry stone walls.

The state of conservation of the dry stone walls is segmented into three categories: poor (10-30%), fair (31-45%), and good (45-80%). This rating system was built according to the percentage of the deterioration of the dry stone walls as well as to their current structural status. The dry stone walls that are classified as poor have just about 10-30% of their structure remaining. The fair rating describes walls that have between 30-45% of their structure remaining and in fair condition. Good status walls are those which are continuous, stable, and in a good state of conservation.
The dry stone walls that comprise the irrigated terraces and those situated close to the urban fabric are in a good state of conservation, while those in the Wadi al-Makrou, and Khallet Battir areas have deteriorated and are in need of rehabilitation, repair, and strengthening. In spite of the seasonal maintenance of agricultural terraces and their dry stone walls by some farmers, and the several rehabilitation projects carried out in several parts of the WHP, the agricultural terraces and dry stone walls require further efforts to reach an acceptable level of conservation.

Figure 21. State of Conservation of the Dry Stone Walls

Figure 22. Dry Stone Wall in Fair Condition
Figure 23. Dry Stone Wall in Good Condition

Figure 24. Dry Stone Wall in Fair Condition
Figure 25. Dry Stone Wall in Fair Condition

Figure 26. Dry Stone Wall in Poor Condition
Field Survey of the Irrigation System (Pools, Canals, and Springs)

Property villagers rely on springs to irrigate their crops. The maintenance of the traditional irrigation system, which includes water pools, springs, and canals, is conducted by the farmers and landowners. Its state of conservation was examined by an in-depth field survey that focused on its current condition, materials, and required conservation intervention.

In general, the irrigation system in the WHP is deteriorating due to several human and natural factors. The human factor is comprised of the lack of an adequate sewage system that is responsible for spring water contamination, the lack of proper maintenance of the irrigation system, the neglect of agricultural terraces, and the use of incompatible restoration materials. The natural factor consists of the effects of vegetation, erosion, fluctuation in temperature, and climate change.

The field survey assessed the five main springs and their irrigation system within the WHP: Ein El-Balad, Ein Jama, Ein El-Haweyyeh, Ein Emdan, and Wadi Al-Aion (Valley of Springs) close to the Hussan village. The state of conservation of the irrigation system is segmented into three categories: poor, which include canals that are not in use, have critical state of conservation, and up to 80% of its structure is damaged. The second category is fair, which includes the canals that are in an acceptable state of conservation but are abandoned and not in currently use. The canals, with most of their collective structure in a strong and stable condition, are classified in as good, are in good state of conservation, and are currently used by farmers.
Ein El-Balad Spring

The existence of this spring was the major factor that attracted people to settle in the area and adapt its steep landscape into arable land. It is the main spring in the WHP, connected with a complex irrigation system of open canals that feed Al-Jinan terraces.

The first rehabilitation intervention for Ein El-Balad took place in the 1950s, when Hassan Mostaf and Battir’s inhabitants restored the spring and built the stone walls, which remain today. In the 1990s, the Palestinian Authority restored the agricultural canals and irrigation system. In 2017, MoTA, in cooperation with the Battir Municipality, conducted a rehabilitation project funded by USAID to restore approximately 1260 meters of traditional canals located between the spring and the Roman Pool. The state of conservation of the remaining canals below the pool are in fair condition as they are still in use and are regularly maintained by farmers and landowners. However, the canals located in the bottom of the valley near the railway track have deteriorated due to the lack of regular use and maintenance. These traditional canals are in need of urgent repair and rehabilitation interventions.

Results of the survey demonstrate that 48% of the assessed canals are in poor condition and need urgent interventions, while 16% are in a fair condition, and more one third (36%) are in a good condition.

Figure 28: Map of the Ein EL-Balad State of Conservation Indicated
Ein Jami’ Spring

Ein Jama’ is the second most important spring in the WHP. Its water collects into an ancient reservoir and flows through ancient man-made canals to irrigate crops. It has its own traditional irrigation system complementing the irrigation system and water rights of Ein al Balad. However, the irrigation system of this spring suffers from a critical state of conservation. Results of the field survey show that more than 70% of the irrigation canals are badly deteriorated and only 30% are in currently in use and in a good state of conservation. Essentially, the irrigation system of Ein Jama’ suffers from deterioration and the impact of restoration attempts using incompatible materials (e.g., plastic or metal pipes). The deterioration of the irrigation system of Ein Jama’ has adversely affected the cultivation of the adjacent agricultural terraces and caused farmers to abandon them.

Ein El-Haweyyeh Spring

Ein El-Haweyyeh Spring is located north of the village of Hussan within the Core Zone of the WHP. It is owned by the residents of Hussan and considered as a place of leisure for them. The spring flows out of the rock face under the ancient part of the village. The spring water is collected in a pool built at the foot of the rock. Irrigation canals leading out from the pool carry water to the various terraces. The irrigation system and agricultural terraces have preserved their authenticity and integrity and remain in an overall good state of conservation. Ein El-Haweyyeh has its own traditions, customs and system of water distribution among farmers who have the right to use the spring water. This system is not recorded and passed over orally from one generation to another. However, such customs and systems are strong enough to assure the sustainability of its irrigation system.
Results of the survey demonstrate that 43% of the assessed canals are in poor condition and need urgent interventions, while 24% are in a fair condition, and about one third (33%) are in a good condition.

**Wadi Al-‘Aion (Valley of Springs)**

The Valley is located west of Hussan village and is named after the nine springs that exist within it. These springs are the Ein-Alsukhuna, Ein Elerq, Ein Alnamous, Ein Kadra, Ein Alaros, Ein Ateah, Ein Alateqa, Ein Albaqe’a, and Ein Alamoud (Al-balad). All of these springs were assessed during the field survey. More than two thirds of the irrigation canals were damaged through a restoration project that took place in 1990s due to the use of incompatible materials (e.g., plastic or metal pipes), while the remaining canals suffer from a critical state of conservation.
Ein Emdan

Ein Emdan is located east of Battir village. This spring was assessed during the field survey. Most of its irrigation canals were damaged and have disappeared as a result of neglect by the farmers, who stopped cultivating their lands in this area because it is far away from the village. Its pool suffers from a critical state of conservation.
Figure 33. Irrigation Canal in Good Condition

Figure 34. Irrigation Canal in Fair Condition
Figure 35. Irrigation Canal in Poor Condition
APPENDIX 6
FIELD SURVEY DATA SHEETS
## SURVEY FORM FOR THE WHP OF BATTIR
(TERRACES & DRY STONE WALLS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sheet No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Dry stone wall (General Information)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type:</th>
<th>Height In Meter</th>
<th>Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Senasel one layer</td>
<td>□ 0 – 1 m</td>
<td>□ stone &amp; clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Senasel two layers</td>
<td>□ 1 – 2 m</td>
<td>□ stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Habale</td>
<td>□ 2 – 3 m</td>
<td>□ stone &amp; concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Rujum</td>
<td>□ more than 3 m</td>
<td>□ others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Midwath</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photos No:</th>
<th>Width In Meter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>..........................</td>
<td>□ 0- 50 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>..........................</td>
<td>□ 50-100 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>..........................</td>
<td>□ more than 100 cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is the dry stone wall renovated</th>
<th>□ Yes</th>
<th>□ No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urgent need for intervention</th>
<th>□ Yes</th>
<th>□ No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of the plants grow in this area</th>
<th>□ olives</th>
<th>□ vegetables</th>
<th>□ fruits</th>
<th>□ Vines</th>
<th>□ native trees</th>
<th>□ none</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Assessment of Dry stone walls Current State of Conservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authenticity (composition, function, details)</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structural Status</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of the terraces in this area</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = fair, 4 = good, and 5 = very good

### Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepared by</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
# Survey Form for the WHP of Battir (Watch Towers)

## General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>No. of Floors</th>
<th>No. of Windows</th>
<th>No. of doors</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>solid stone heaps</td>
<td>☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ others</td>
<td>☐ none ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ others</td>
<td>☐ none ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ others</td>
<td>N………………………… E…………………………</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round watch towers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quadrilateral watchtowers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photos No.</th>
<th>Is the watchtower inhabited or used</th>
<th>If Yes, what is the use?</th>
<th>In which time it was built?</th>
<th>Is the watchtower conserved?</th>
<th>If Yes, when?</th>
<th>Urgent need for intervention</th>
<th>Current Materials</th>
<th>Minor Additions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>………………..</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
<td>…………………………………………………………………….</td>
<td>…………………………………………………………………….</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
<td>☐ stone ☐ concrete ☐ Wood ☐ Others please specify</td>
<td>☐ No Additions ☐ concrete Additions ☐ Others please specify</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Current State of Conservation |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| External Structure | ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 |
| Structural Status | ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 |
| Overall Status | ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 |

1 (10-15%) = very poor, 2 (15-30%) = poor, 3 (30-45%) = fair, 4 (45-60%) = good, and 5 (60-80%) = very good

**Notes:** ……………………………………………………………………………………

**Prepared by:** ……………………………………………………

**Date:** ……………………………………………………

---

**Survey form for The WhP of Battir (Watch Towers)**
**SURVEY FORM FOR THE WHP OF BATTIR (IRRIGATION SYSTEM)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos No:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| □ Yes | □ No |
| Is the canal used |
| Is the canal renovated | □ Yes | □ No |
| If yes, Please describe | |

| □ Yes | □ No |
| Urgent need for intervention |

| Overall Status evaluation | □ 1 | □ 2 | □ 3 | □ 4 | □ 5 |

1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = fair, 4 = good, and 5 = very good

**Current State of Conservation**

**Note:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storyline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Storyline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storyline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storyline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storyline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storyline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prepared by:**

**Date:**
## SURVEY FORM FOR THE TRADITIONAL BUILDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Usage of Floors:</th>
<th>No. Of Floors:</th>
<th>No. of Households</th>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>Ownership:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rental</td>
<td>Owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Inhabitants:</th>
<th>No. of workers in family:</th>
<th>No. Of Children less than 16</th>
<th>Type of Work:</th>
<th>Place of work:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historical Period:</th>
<th>Roman</th>
<th>Fatimid</th>
<th>Early Ottoman</th>
<th>After -1967</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Byzantium</td>
<td>Crusader</td>
<td>Late Ottoman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Umayyad</td>
<td>Ayyubid</td>
<td>British Mandate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abbasid</td>
<td>Mamluk</td>
<td>1948-1967</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability of using the building or part for public use:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed use:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability of using the building or part for Commercial</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability of renting the building or part</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connected to Infrastructure:</th>
<th>Electricity</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Sewage</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion for developing tourism in Battir</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Problems in the building:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material:</th>
<th>Walls</th>
<th>Openings</th>
<th>Roof covering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blocks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roof Type</th>
<th>Domed</th>
<th>Flat</th>
<th>Pitched</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical state of structure</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Ruins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authenticity:</td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>Material:</td>
<td>Roof:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Originally</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partly changed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changed</th>
<th>Is it Rehabilitated</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valorisation:</td>
<td>monumental</td>
<td>historical</td>
<td>religious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>characteristics / specific details:</th>
<th>Brief description of details:</th>
<th>Description of the details damages:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Notes:**

**Prepared by:**

**Date:**
APPENDIX 7
WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY MAPS
Legend
- Contour Lines 25m
- Railway Standard Gauge
- Settlements
- Palestinian Settlements
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir

WHP: Topographic Map
Legend
- Springs
- Channels
- Contour Line
- Railway Standard Gauge
- Palestinian Builtup Areas
- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir
- Settlements

WHP: Irrigation System of the Core Zone and Buffer Zone
The Assessed Watchtowers and Not Assessed

Legend
- Watchtowers
- Null Value
- The Assessed Watchtowers
- The Non-Assessed Watchtowers
- Core & Un-25m
- Gap & Settlements
- Core & Un-9m
- Core & Un-6m
- Core & Un-3m
- Palestinian Builtup Areas
- lands Owned by the People of Battir
WatchTowers Index Map

Legend
- WatchTowers
- Contour Line 25m
- RailWay Standard Gauge
- Settlements
- Palestinian Builtup Areas
- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir
Irrigation System Index Map

Legend
- Channels
- Contour Line 25m
- Rail Way: Standard Gauge
- Index
- Settlements
- Palestinian Builtup Areas
- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Betar

Legend

Beit Jala
Hadar Betar
Husam
Battir
Al Walaja
Har Gilo
Al Khadr

Legend

Channels
Contour Line 25m
Rail Way: Standard Gauge
Index
Settlements
Palestinian Builtup Areas
Core Zone
Buffer Zone
Lands Owned by the People of Betar

Legend

Irrigation System Index Map

Legend

Beit Jala
Hadar Betar
Husam
Battir
Al Walaja
Har Gilo
Al Khadr

Legend

Irrigation System Index Map
The Assessed Watchtowers
Type of Watchtower Map

Legend
- Watch Towers - Type:
  - Quadrilateral 44%
  - Round 23%
  - Solid Stone Heaps 33%
  - Contour Line 25%
  - Railways Standard Gauge
- Settlements
  - Palestinian Settlements
  - Core Zone
  - Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir

Kilometers
State of Conservation of the Watchtowers

Legend
- Watch Towers
- Conserved
- Not Conserved
- Contour Line 25m
- Railway Standard Gauge
- Settlements
- Palestinian Built-up Areas
- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir
Current State of Conservation of the Watchtowers

Legend:
- Watch Towers - Overall Status
  - Very Poor 10-15%
  - Poor 15-30%
  - Fair 30-45%
  - Good 45-60%
  - Very Good 60-80%
- Contour Line 25m
- Railway Standard Gauge
- Settlements
- Palstian Builtup Areas
- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir

Kilometers
Ein-Jam’ Irrigation System Map

Legend

- Springs
- Channels Overall Status
- Poor...50%
- Fair...20%
- Good...30%
- Collection Pools

Map showing the overall status of channels in the Ein-Jam’ Irrigation System.
Ein Imdan Irrigation System Map

Legend

- Springs
- Buried underground channels
- Collection Pools

Channels Overall Status

Legend
The Border of The Old Core and The Cemetery Map

Legend
- Contour Line
- Old Core
- Cemetery
- Houses Inside Old Core
- Houses Outside Old Core
Building Current Material

Legend
- Contour Line
- Old Core
- Cemetery
- Building Current Material
  - Iron
  - Stone
  - Concrete
  - Wood
  - Aluminium
  - Aluminium and Iron
  - Stone and Concrete
  - Wood and Iron
  - Others
Legend
- Contour Line 25m
- Buildings Buffer Zone...43%
- Buildings Core Zone...2%
- Buildings Lands Owned by the People of Battir...2%
- Buildings outside the WHP...53%
- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir

Urban Development Map

Appendices & Annexes 2018
Legend

Urban Encroachment Proposed
- High Risk of Buildings - 50 Meters from Core Zone & Buffer Zone
- Contour Line 25m
- Buildings Buffer Zone...43%
- Buildings Core Zone...2%
- Buildings Lands Owned by the People of Battir...2%
- Buildings outside the WHP...53%
- Core Zone
- Buffer Zone
- Lands Owned by the People of Battir

Urban Encroachment Map

Kilometers
ANNEX 1

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN PALESTINE: BATTIR REGION AS A CASE STUDY
RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS

- Dr. Hamdan Taha: The General Coordinator of the World Heritage Project in Palestine
- Ahmed Rjoob: the Filed Coordinator of the World Heritage Project in Palestine
- Mohamed Jaradat: Coordinator of the project
- Dr. Ahmed Hammad: Cultural and natural landscape expert
- Dr. Hamed Salem: Archaeological expert
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities would like to convey their appreciation and thankful to the generous financial support provided by the UNESCO without which this study would not be possible, also for their moral and technical support along the whole period of the study.

Thankful is also extended to the research team members; Dr. Ahmad Abu Hammad and Dr. Hamed Salem, for their patience and full cooperation throughout the difficult and long-time process of preparations for the study, field research, writings and the final revision and editing of the final report.

Special thanks are going to Dr. Hamdan Taha for his support and appreciable directions from the beginning through all the different steps toward finalizing this study.

The thanks are also extended to Mr. Mohammad Jaradat for his effective team members’ coordination and well-organized preparation of different logistics to assure the success of the study.

Our deep gratitude is also introduced to the people of Battir without their cooperation and generosity this study would not become true.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION .................................................................................................................. 131

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS .............................................................................................. 131
   2.1. FIELD SURVEY AND SELECTION OF THE STUDY AREA ............................................. 131
   2.2. MAPPING THE STUDY AREA ..................................................................................... 133
   2.3. LIBRARY RESEARCH ..................................................................................................... 134
   2.4. THE QUESTIONNAIRE ................................................................................................. 135
      2.4.1. PREPARATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE .............................................................. 135
      2.4.2. TESTING THE QUESTIONNAIRE ......................................................................... 136
      2.4.3. EVALUATION AND FINALIZATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ......................... 136
   2.5. SELECTION OF THE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS ............................................................. 136
      2.5.1. NATURAL ELEMENTS ......................................................................................... 136
      2.5.2. CULTURAL ELEMENTS ...................................................................................... 137

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .............................................................................................. 138
   3.1. NATURAL SETTINGS ..................................................................................................... 138
      3.1.1. PREVIOUS STUDIES .......................................................................................... 138
      3.1.2. SURVEY DATA ...................................................................................................... 139
         3.1.2.1. LANDSCAPE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SETTINGS (Location, geomorphologic,
                     demographic and hydrologic settings) .............................................................. 139
         3.1.2.2. LANDSCAPE HUMAN SETTINGS (Agriculture and built up areas) ................. 144
   3.2. CULTURAL SETTINGS .................................................................................................. 147
      3.2.1. PREVIOUS STUDIES .......................................................................................... 147
      3.2.2. EARLY ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS OF BATTIR HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
             VALUE ...................................................................................................................... 150
      3.3. LANDSCAPE QUALITY ............................................................................................. 152

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ....................................................................... 156

5. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES ......................................................... 157
   5.1. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE LANDSCAPE STUDIES .................... 157
   5.2. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE LANDSCAPE STUDIES .................................. 157

6. REFERENCES ....................................................................................................................... 159
LIST OF MAPS

Map 1: Location of Battir area ................................................................. 139

Map 2: Spatial distribution of springs in Battir area ........................................ 142

Map 3: Spatial distribution different land uses in Battir area ............................. 145

Map 4: A comparison between the recent built-up area and the 1933 built-up area of Battir. ...................................................... 146

Map 5: Recent spatial direction of Battir built-up area as compared to the 1933 cultivated area. ............................................................. 147

Map 6: Historical and archeological sites of importance in Battir area. .................. 152

Map 7: Viewpoint directions for the evaluation of different landscape elements in Battir area. .............................................................. 153
LIST OF PICTURES

Picture 1: Stonewall terraces that are distinctive physical feature of Battir area due to its undulating and steep topography. 140

Picture 2: Major soil type (terra rosa to the left and brown rendzina to the right) in Battir area. 140

Picture 3: Geologic cross section showing major rock types (From up to down: dolomite, chalk, and lime stone) in Battir area. 141

Picture 4: ‘Ein al Bald spring with the surrounding irrigated terraces. 142

Picture 5: ‘Ein Jami’ spring and its collecting pool, water delivery system, and the surrounding terraces. 143

Picture 6: Some of the indigenous wild plants in Battir area. 144
1. INTRODUCTION

Cultural landscape is “a geographic defined area that enclosing both cultural and natural resources, in addition to the presence of historical event/s, activity/ies, or person/s, and/or exhibiting important cultural character/s and/or aesthetic values.”

The cultural landscape is differentiated from a natural landscape by a cultural group that shape out important characters of the landscape, especially those related to the land use types and patterns as well as the human-related cultural properties of the landscape. As a consequent, the existing culture of the inhabitants is considered as the agent of the landscape, the natural constituents of the landscape is the medium, and hence, the cultural landscape is the result of the interaction of both factors: cultural and natural. In other words, cultural landscape is considered as a reflection of the existing culture of one or more society textured into the existing natural elements of an area (i.e. topography, natural vegetation, geology, etc.). Thereafter, the safeguard and enhancement of the landscape characters and sustaining a sense of place is an important conservation requirement through careful planning, which will provide two parallel approaches: development of land, and at the same time taking into consideration the cultural and natural values and functions of the landscape, for achieving the final aim; that is sustainable development through the wise use of natural resources.

Many researchers considered Battir as a typical area that resembles the past interaction between man in its culture and existing natural resources. The adjacent area to Battir is also considered as an exceptional landscape area (Wadi Fukin area) along with Husan and Nahhalin, where this area is well known of its water resources (i.e. springs and wells), its unique environmental settings as well as diversity of the existing land uses. But due to the ongoing construction of the Apartheid wall as well as the political complications existing in the area, the research will deal only with Battir area to facilitate field work as well as reduce time frame needed for investigations. This interaction is shaped out through the intensive agricultural system (i.e. terraces, irrigation canals and the old irrigation system, the many archeological and historical places, and the legend beyond these places, etc.). In addition to the human-nature interactions, Battir acquired scenic characteristics with regard to topography, location, and the aesthetic values of the landscape. All of these special characters could be important evidences that qualify this area for protection through sound, balanced, and sustainable management practices that could keep the area intact with minimum changes in its elements for the future generation as well as for the culture of the world.

This report is intending to explore the existing potential of Battir area that is related to the past culture, its relation to the existing elements of the area (both the human and the natural), and in turn the value that these elements constitute to the regional as well as the international cultural and natural importance.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

FIELD SURVEY AND SELECTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Although the West Bank has several potential significant areas for declaring as natural and cultural protected areas (For details on such areas, please see appendix 1 of MOPIC Landscape and cultural heritage reports- Appendix1), but the specificity of the Palestinian conditions along with the interests of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA) has narrowed down the proposed areas to only three; these are Salfit, Birzeit, and Battir.
Following the identification of different proposed areas for landscape protection, multiple cultural and natural general criteria were identified so as to finally identify the final targeted area for intensive field survey. The general criteria for selection among the proposed area are the following:

- Connection of the area with the World Heritage proposed exceptional area.

- The area that should be identified should have a high degree of threats that are resulting from random urban expansion, occupation influences, and other human activities.

- High value and exceptional type of natural landscape, which is represented by the following characteristics:
  a. Agricultural diversification, especially the presence of vineyards and olive groves plantation.
  b. Cultural diversification, especially those constructions that are related to the cultural and historical places connected to the agronomic use of the area (i.e. old vineyards' and olives press, old terraces, etc.).
  c. Potential for future development and tourism attraction.
  d. The current state of traditional-cultural conservation in the area.

- The state and type of reaction between man and nature, which can produce a certain positive characters (i.e. multiple cropping, terraces, water harvesting techniques, etc.)

Based on the above-mentioned criteria, Battir area was chosen. In addition to the general criteria that were taken into consideration, Battir area was found to follow up the following roles:

1. The definition of UNESCO for the cultural and natural landscape areas, which combined the effect of both nature and human on the evolution of the proposed area for protection through time (Article I of the World Heritage Convention). This evolution reflects the physical, social, economic and cultural characteristics of the landscape due to multiple external and/or internal natural environmental settings (geology, topography, geomorphology, land uses, climate, etc.).

2. The Department of Tourism and Antiquities have put emphasis on Battir area as a potential area for cultural and historical importance, and though the team members took the Department of Tourism and Antiquities preference of Battir into account.

3. There is a clear indication of the reaction between the human factor in Battir area and the natural and cultural settings of the area, which is clearly reflected by the type of the existing land uses (i.e. olive groves, grapes and irrigated vegetables) as well as the history of the area. This interaction is happened to be in accordance with the specifications and requirements of the World Heritage Convention for the protection of such areas.

4. The existing, historical places, aesthetic and valuable elements of the landscape itself that gave the area a special beauty and sense of place.
MAPPING THE STUDY AREA

After the identification of Battir area as the targeted area for conducting the cultural study, base maps of the area were computerized. The base maps have a scale of 1:20,000 dated to the 1933 of the British Mandate period. An important factor that was discussed intensively between the team members is the identification of proper boundary of the study area. Finally it has been agreed upon to consider that the boundary of the surface watershed area is the final boundary of the study area. The reason behind this choice is the following:

1. The watershed area resembles naturally bounded area in which all the surface water resources are connected and related to each other.

2. The area bounded has typical common land use, which are the olive groves, vineyards and the irrigated vegetables.

3. The area also has different common geomorphologic settings, including the topography, exposure, natural vegetation, soils, and the geologic formations.

4. The area also comprises a human bounded settlement area that is connected to the adjacent area by special social, economic networking relations (similar families and family relations, exchange of agricultural produces, specific road networks to adjacent villages and areas), which are well known and identified by the people of the area as well as the people of adjacent areas.

The basic data that were digitized and computerized are the following data:

1. The surface watershed boundary in accordance to the contour lines and the meander of the valleys’ network of the area.

2. The contour elevation lines, which resembles 20 meters elevation difference between each two successive contour lines.

3. The past (1933) land use of the area, which contains the following features:
   - Location, concentration and direction of the built-up area in Battir village.
   - Road network.
   - Different agricultural areas, including different cropping patterns, as well as the forested areas.

4. Different historical and natural settings of the area, such as historical places, water resources especially valleys and springs.

5. Soil and geological data were computerized from auxiliary Israeli sources. In this regard, the soil and geology were extracted from large-scale maps (1:500,000), hence, the description of the soil and geology is only providing a general description of the area but at the same time such information is useful for the objectives of this report.
LIBRARY RESEARCH

There are very limited researches talking about the study area. Most of these researches describe the archeological and historical places, whereas very few researches describe, in general, the natural characteristics and different environmental settings of the area both in the past and in the present time. Anyhow, among the useful researches that can be mentioned in this regard are the following:

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

PREPARATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was designed to provide data on the existing natural and cultural settings of the study area. The questionnaire was divided into ten main parts (Appendix 2), these are:

1. General information (Geography, location, names, etc.)
2. Archeological survey information.
3. Previous researches and data sources.
4. The natural landscape characteristics: which includes the following elements:
   • Topography.
   • Areas of biodiversity.
   • Geology and geomorphology.
   • Surface and ground water.
   • Aesthetic factors.
   • Existing land use.
5. Cultural landscape elements.
6. Types and components of the cultural landscape.
7. Dating of the cultural landscape.
8. Type and status of the existing threats to the landscape.
9. Potentials of the natural landscape.
10. Suggested recommendations and interferences.

For each part of the questionnaire, different questions were designed so as to get accurate data, either from literature, field survey, or from the inhabitants of the area.

The design of the questionnaire took into consideration the following guidelines for any similar future studies:

1. Informative and comprehensive: the questionnaire contains different natural, geographic and cultural data that are necessary to have a comprehensive view of the study area. In addition, the concerned data, to some extent, correlated to each other, for example, if the questionnaire reveals the availability of water resources such as wells and springs, this would be correlated to the nourishment of irrigated agriculture, or at least it will indicate the future potential of the area for development in the irrigated agriculture.

2. Scale dependent: which means that the data included into the questionnaire can be on micro scale (part of a watershed, plateau, valley, etc.) or macro scale (Macro watershed area, District level and regional level).

3. Accuracy: where the data can be obtained from different sources, field survey would be an appropriate method to check and provide field control to the descriptive data obtained from literature and published data.
TESTING THE QUESTIONNAIRE
A pre-test of the questionnaire was carried out through field survey that was conducted by the team members into Birzeit area. Each member of the team filled out the data correspondent to his field of specialization. As a result of this field test, the team discovered some points of the questionnaire that should be cancelled, some other points to be modified, and new other points that did not appear into the questionnaire and they are important to be included into the final questionnaire. In addition to testing and the final adjustment of the questionnaire, the team members have practiced filling the questionnaire in proper way and exact time frame. Besides, the team members have acquired new knowledge about other members’ specialization, especially that all the members were assisting each other in identifying the right answers and to get the proper data for completing the questionnaire.

EVALUATION AND FINALIZATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE
After getting all the comments from the preliminary field survey, the team has an intensive discussion about different parts of the questionnaire, including some parts to be added. As a first step, each part of the questionnaire was evaluated separately by examining each question of this part, after getting approval of all the team members; the second part would be examined and approved and so on till the final part of the questionnaire. In addition to evaluating and finalizing each part separately, some parts would be evaluated in conjunction with other related parts, for example, the type of land use and the degree and type of threats that exist into the area. According to this multiple interrelated correlation, new questions emerged and some others were modified.

SELECTION OF THE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS
Landscape elements are the basic input material from which the functional and visual value of the landscape is estimated. In this regard, it is necessary to consider the natural (physical) and cultural features that persist in the landscape and in turn assigning these elements would enable the evaluation of its importance and value from a conservational point of view.

NATURAL ELEMENTS
Natural elements of the landscape are related to those physical elements existing in the area. These include both hard and soft elements of the landscape. The natural elements that have been taken into consideration for the purpose of the landscape study are the following:

- Topography of the study area: this includes the type of topography (i.e. valleys, plains, etc.), local name/s of these features, the shape of different topographic sections and their steepness.
- Area of biodiversity, including natural flora and fauna.
- Geology: in some areas, geological formations are of major importance and determinant of the existing soil type and land use. In addition, the associated geological feature such as folds and faults are the major factors for the formation of different topographic elements (i.e. hills, valleys, coasts and plains).
- Major soil types existing in the study area.
- Surface water resources, including the number, type, and the local names of different surface water resources.
- Ground water resources and ground water recharge areas.
- Aesthetic factors: this is related to the texture and elemental beauty of the natural landscape. Aesthetic factors include but not limited to the following elements:
- Balance of different constituents of the landscape.
- Scale of the landscape area as a whole as well as the scale of smaller parts of the landscape.
- Enclosure or the range of visibility of the landscape.
- Texture of different elements inside the landscape (i.e. built-up areas, forested green areas, natural vegetation areas, bare rocks and soils).
- Color of the landscape as a whole.
- Diversity of different elements that is included into the landscape.
- Unity of the landscape as one major visible unit or divided into different discrete subunits.
- Form of the landscape, whether angular, straight, curved or sinuous.

- Other significant factors: these are related to the land use features, which are either in harmony (i.e. arable lands and forested areas) or oppose (quarries, stone cutting and crushing facilities, built-up area, and road networks) the general contextual pattern of the landscape.
- Landscape can inspire historical and travelers accounts through literature, poetry, music and art done by these travelers. Landscape diversity and seasonality might give rise to annual festivals, farming practices and other traditional practices such as water diversion systems for irrigation. The character of an area is determined by its historical tradition and culture, which in turn can be strongly influenced by its landscape such as plains, faults and folds, or can completely disregard its landscape such as urban areas. Features referred to through an art form or that form part of a local festival or custom can be distinctive and outstanding.

CULTURAL ELEMENTS

Within the limited watershed area of Battir, one can find several archeological, historical and cultural sites of interest to any researcher. Amongst the most important ones are the following sites:

1. Khirbet al Yahud: it is a Roman site in which one can find a castle surrounded by protective walls.
2. Khirbet Karzalah: this khirbeh has a Roman and a Mamluk Muslim archeological remains.
3. The Eastern khirbeh: located in the eastern part of Battir. The khirbeh has many caves, tombs and walls belonging to Canaanite period. Later on its name has been modified to Betar.
5. Maqam as Sheik Zeid.
6. Springs and the associated water collection and distribution systems in the area. This is because most of these constructions, although recently rehabilitated, belong to ancient times (i.e. Roman and Islamic periods).

The analysis of the historical and archeological components and their values in the study area will though be based on the number and historical importance of each site. In addition, aesthetic as well as current values and uses of such historical features will also be taken into account in the analysis of the cultural landscape study.
3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1.2.1. NATURAL SETTINGS

PREVIOUS STUDIES
Most of the previous studies concentrated on the natural elements of Battir area in the context of either regional (West Bank) or sub-regional (Bethlehem Governorate) scale. It is for this reason that Battir area suffers from a lack of detailed information with respect to its basic natural settings (i.e. geology, soil, natural vegetation, water resources, and geomorphologic characteristics), as well as the aesthetic values (i.e. density, color, texture, and shape of different aesthetic elements) that are characterizing Battir area. In addition, none of these studies dealt with the area for its value as a cultural landscape area, taking into consideration both the natural and the cultural elements and their interactions.

Amongst the most recent study is one that focused on the environmental impact of the Israeli Segregation Plan on the area (Isaac et al., 2005) and the second study is that belongs to a Master thesis prepared by Abdul-Halim Tmeizeh in 2000 (Tmeizeh, 2000). In the former study (ARIJ 2005), the focus was on the environmental settings of the village itself but not on the surrounding natural boundary of the area (i.e. watershed area). Most of the important environmental issues that have been discussed in ARIJ's study are the following:

a. Geography.
b. Water resources.
c. Land use.
d. Socio-economic factors; including the education, health and the main economic activities in the village.
e. Potential impact of the Israeli Segregation Plan.
f. Means for reducing or mitigating the impact of the segregation wall.

Although this study is of limited value concerning the cultural landscape of the area, many auxiliary data could be of useful for the natural description of the study area (i.e. Battir village), which is not far in its characteristics from the surrounding natural boundary.

In the later study (Tmeizeh, 2000), the water use, rights, resources, and the water distribution system that is being adopted in Battir village was studied. This study had the aims of conducting a comparative study with other similar villages that have similar water resources and uses, and in addition, to explore the historical traditional thinking behind the ancient, but still in use, water rights and distribution system. In this study, the author discussed issues related to Battir village only, where he focused on the geographic location, water resources, especially those related to the springs that were and are still being in use for irrigation of vegetables and as a domestic water sources for the people of Battir. Nevertheless, the study is considered the first in terms of revealing the social and traditional water uses, water distribution and water rights of the inhabitants that were inherited long time ago.

A third important study, although older than the above two ones, is the Environmental Profile for the West Bank: District of Bethlehem (The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ), 1995). The study is still an important basic reference for its content in geographic and natural elements (i.e. soil, geology, topography, etc.) of the whole area of Bethlehem, although detailed information on the study area (Battir) is not possible from such a general study.
SURVEY DATA

LANDSCAPE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SETTINGS
Location, geomorphologic, demographic and hydrologic settings

Battir is a village situated in Bethlehem Governorate. The village is located about 10 km west of Bethlehem city and about 7 km southwest of Jerusalem; it is located also in the vicinity of Husan to the south and al-Khadir villages to the east (Map 1).

The village is located on a sloped mountainous area that descends steeply towards what’s called Battir Valley to the north of the village. Moving from the southern part to the northern part of the village, the elevation drops sharply from about 850 m a.s.l to about 600 m a.s.l. nearby Battir valley entrance. Due to this steep slope from the south to the north, it has become a necessity to build stonewall terraces to prevent extensive soil erosion; in addition to conserve soil-moisture and provide more suitable land for cultivation, though numerous stonewall terraces are distinctive in the area of Battir (Picture 1).

Map 1. Location of Battir area (macro and micro location), the surrounding villages, and the nearby Israeli Settlements.
From a geographic point of view, Battir is located on latitude of 35° 8’ and a longitude of 31° 44’. The village has about 5000 inhabitants living in about 750 houses distributed all over the village land boundary of approximately 8000 dunums size, of this area, about 3500 dunums is nowadays beyond the armistic line of 1967 (Please see map 1).

From a natural geographic division, Battir area belongs to what’s called the “the Mountainous Area Region” in general, and in specific belongs to the Central Palestinian Mountains area. Cold Mediterranean Climate is prevailing in Battir area, which is characterized by a mean annual rainfall of 500 to 550 mm and a mean annual temperature of 16 °C also.

Generally speaking, Battir has two major soil types, these are the terra rosa and the rendzina soils (Dan et al., 1976; Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), 1998b; Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), 1998c; The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ), 1995), but the main soil type which concentrate in the area is belonging to the terra rosa (Picture 2).
From a geologic point of view, the area has dolomite, lime stone, chalk and marl rocks that are dated to the Cinomanian and Toronian periods (Abed, 1999). These geological formations are known of their good characteristics to retain and store water inside (Picture 3).

The main water source in Battir area depends on springs for both irrigating the village’s crops and also for domestic use. Currently people reduce using the spring water for their own needs; rather they are using piped water that is provided by the Israeli Water Company of Mekorot. All houses are connected to public water network.

Five springs exist at different sites in Battir area (Map 2), these are:

a. ‘Ein al Balad: it is one of the two main spring in Battir on which heavy agricultural activities (i.e. vegetables’ irrigation) rely on this spring. The spring is located in the northern side of the village and adjacent to the center of the populated area. This spring is famous of its water collecting pool dated to the Roman time (Tmeizeh, 2000). This spring has the highest discharge rate among other existing springs (Picture 4).

b. ‘Ein Jami': The rocks in this spring is hard lime stone with lower cracks in the rocks layer. This caused a lower discharge than the aforementioned ‘Ein al Balad due to both harder rock layers and lower cracks (Abed, 1999; Tmeizeh, 2000). Similarly, this spring is accompanied with collecting pools that is dated to the Roman time (Picture 5).

c. ‘Ein Al Masri.
d. ‘Ein Abu al Harith.
e. ‘Ein ‘Amdan.

As mentioned before, these springs enable the intensive irrigated agriculture on the sloppy terraced land of Battir. The springs’ water is though considered as the main source of drinking water for both domestic animals as well as for wildlife (Ar Rabi and Tamimi, 1998; Isac and Sabbah, 1997).
Map 2. Spatial distribution of springs in Battir area.

Picture 4. ‘Ein al Bald spring with the surrounding irrigated terraces.
With respect to the ground water resources, Battir area has deep under ground aquifer system that originates from the Upper Cenomanian age, consisting mainly from limestone, chalk and dolomite (Abed, 1999; Tmeizeh, 2000). The ground water is deep in this area and generally it is located more than 100 meters beneath the ground surface.

Due to the fertile soil, dense forested areas occupied mainly by pine trees and some other native plants and shrubs, and the presence of water in the springs, Battir area witnessed a diversification of its natural habitat, both flora and fauna. The following factors have contributed largely to the presence of this wide range of natural habitat and native species:

a. Presence of different geomorphologic factors in the area (i.e. wadis, mountains, irrigated terraces, springs, etc.) provides suitable shelter, and a source of food and water for such species diversification.

b. The restriction imposed by the Israeli on the use of land due to the presence of the railway in the vicinity of the area, which provide safe and suitable area for flourishing the nature habitat in the area.

c. Prohibition on the mobility of the people because of the neighborhood of the 1967 border between the West Bank and Israel, which provided more safety and protection to the nature habitat (wild animals and native species).

Among the common flora that can be registered in the area are (Isaac et al., 2005) (Picture 6):
- Pinus halepensis
- Quercus calliprinos
- Ballota saxatilis
- Stachys palaestina
- Mentha longifolia
- Sternbergia clusiana
- Teucrium divaricatum
- Dianthus strictus
- Marrubium vulgare
- Sideritis pullulans
- Micromeria nervosa
- Origanum syriacum

3.1.2.2. LANDSCAPE HUMAN SETTINGS

Agriculture and built up area
Due to the fertile soil, land suitability, and the presence of spring water for irrigated crops, in addition to the huge number of both old and recently constructed terraces for enabling more land for cultivation, all of these factors have contributed to the flourishing of intensive agricultural practices in Battir area. Among the most familiar cultivation are: rain-fed field crops and fruit trees, vineyards, and olives plantation. A dense forested area is obvious in the eastern and southeastern part of Battir. The forest composes mainly of pine trees and some native plants and vegetations (Map 3).
The most invading type of land use is the olive plantation followed by forested areas, and the built-up area is coming third in ranking. Although the irrigated vegetables has small area in comparison with other land uses, but it still comprise an important source for income of the farmers in this area, especially that the irrigated vegetables is practiced in an intensive way to assure highest and on time production for the satisfaction of the local market needs (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), 1998c; Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2003a). Olive cultivation has been recently adopted in large area due to the suitability of the majority of the areas to such type of cultivation (i.e. shallow soil depth), in addition to the low requirements for applying costly management and cultivation practices (i.e. tillage, harvesting, fertilization, pest and insects control), and finally for their economic returns as compared to the economic input.
Battir area has also witnessed dramatic change in the expansion of its built-up area since 1933. It is estimated that the total built-up area in 1933 was about 18 dunums according to the British mandate maps of the area. Recently, the total built-up area increased dramatically and is estimated at 117 dunums, almost six times that in 1933 (Map 4). The expansion of built-up recently indicates the dynamic increasing needs of the inhabitants, especially with the high rate of population growth (about 3.5%) as well as the higher standard of living of the population, as well as the associated infrastructure and services. Most of the expansion of the recent built-up area concentrates in the eastern, western and the northern parts of the area, which coincides with the fact that these parts were cultivated in the past (1933) with olives and other type of crops (Map 5).

A rough comparison of the recent cultivated area with the 1933 cultivated area indicates that there is only a very slight reduction in the total area, where the recent cultivated area is about 1069 dunums, whereas that of 1933 is about 1073 dunums.

A comparison of the spatial distribution of the cultivated area between 2003 and 1933 indicates that there is quite appreciable change in the type and location of certain cultivation (i.e. olives and vineyards), which is a necessity came from the urban expansion needs in these areas, and the consequent substitution of these urbanized area with newly rehabilitated and reclaimed area for cultivation (Map 5).
3.2. CULTURAL SETTINGS

3.2.1. PREVIOUS STUDIES

There are three main sources which we can follow to reconstruct Battir history. The first is the primary historical resources and the related secondary historical explanations of them. The second is the archeological records based on surveys and excavations, and the third source is new data collected from the field visits.

We had little primary information about the village at its history until the 19th century. It is still one of the problems to have an accurate identification of the village with ancient resources. However, it is acceptable now to identify Battir with Bethther mention on the early historical resources. Other names such as Baethar and Bether or Beth-ter is reported by biblical resources are still debatable. The following is a review of Battir in these resources.

1. The Greek Version of the Bible mention a city with the name Baethar, which is to be identified with Bether and Battir. The texts states:

   24 And behold also Sadoc, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord from Baethar: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had passed out of the city. 25 And the king said to Sadoc, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I should find favour in the eyes of the Lord, then will he bring me back, and he will shew me it and its beauty (King II: 15: 24).

   It is difficult to identify the exact location of Baether, but it could be Bethar.
2. *Bethar* sounds to be mentioned as Baiter, one of the cities of Juduea (Joshua 15). This however is mentioned only on the Greek translation of the Bible, Septuagint (Joshua 15:30), but not on other versions.

>This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Juda. 21 And their cities were cities belonging to the tribe of the children of Juda on the borders of Edom by the wilderness, and Baeseelel, and Ara, and Asor, 22 and Icam, and Regma, and Aruel, 23 and Cades, and Asoronain, and Maenam, 24 and Balmaenan, and their villages, 25 and the cities of Aseron, this is Asor, 26 and Sen, and Salmaa, and Molada, 27 and Seri, and Baephalath, 28 and Cholaseola, and Beersabee; and their villages, and their hamlets, 29 Bala and Bacoc, and Asom, 30 and Elboudad, and Baethel and Herma, 31 and Sekelac, and Macharim, and Sethennac, 32 and Labos, and Sale, and Eromoth; twenty-nine cities, and their villages.

3. The name Bethar appeared again in the Songs of Solomons,

>"Until the cool of the day when the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle Or a young stag on the mountains of Bether." Song of Solomon 2: 17

However, the mountains of Bethar is not identified yet and could be the Mountains of Battir.

4. One of the major secondary resources describing the story of Bethar during the Roman period is found on found in Butz (2003: 249), he wrote,

>Bar-Kokhba’s end came in 135. Jerusalem not being suitable to withstand a siege, he led the remnant of his army to the village of Bethar (the present Battir), which is located on high ground about 10 miles southwest of Jerusalem, 25 miles from the Dead Sea and 35 miles from the Mediterranean. The dimensions of the ancient town were roughly rectangular, with a north-south length of about 600 meters and an east-west width of about 200 meters. The south half of the town was fortified.[431] These dimensions plus the fact that the estimates for the Jewish population of Palestine of the time range from a low of 500,000 to a high of 2.5 million make it unlikely that Bar-Kokhba’s Bethar army numbered as many as 50,000 men.[432]

>The Romans laid siege to Bethar in the summer of 135, and Bar-Kokhba’s resistance collapsed in August. The Romans broke into the fortress and Bar-Kokhba was killed in that final battle.

For general reasons, it seems unlikely that the Romans carried out a massacre of the Jewish population of Bethar. The only “evidence” for a general massacre occurs in the Talmudic literature (including in this context the Midrash Rabbah), which for reasons unknown comments extensively on the siege of Bethar and its supposed aftermath. Except where noted, the Talmudic passages are reproduced in the Appendix to the book Bar-Kokhba by the archaeologist Yigael Yadin. The size of Bar-Kokhba’s Bethar army is given as 200,000 men. Bar-Kokhba is said to have been so tough that, when the Romans catapulted missiles into his fort, he would intercept the missiles with his knee with such force that he would knock them back into the faces of the astonished Romans, killing many. The Talmud goes on to claim that the number of Jews killed by the Romans after the fortress fell was 4 billion "or as some say" 40 million, while the Midrash Rabbah reports 800 million martyred Jews. In order to reassure us that these figures are given in earnest, the necessarily accompanying events are set forth. The blood of the slain Jews reached to the nostrils of the Romans’ horses and then, like a tidal wave, plunged a distance of one mile or four miles to the sea, carrying large boulders along with it, and staining the sea a distance of four miles out.
The Jewish school children of Bethar, according to the Talmudic literature, were of course not spared by the Romans, who are said to have wrapped each of them in his scroll and then burned all of them, the number of these school children having been either 64 million or at least 150,000 (the approximate present public school population of Washington, DC).

This critical review of the Babylonian Talmudic story based on its exaggeration of the story and numbers of victims. The original texts states:

'These are the eighty thousand battle trumpets which assembled in the city of Bethar when it was taken and men, women and children were slain until their blood run into the great sea. (Do you think it was near? It was six kilometers away.)

There were four hundred synagogues in the city of Bethar, and in every one were four hundred teachers of children, and each one had under him four hundred pupils, and when the enemy entered there, they pierced them with their staves, and when the enemy prevailed and captured them, they wrapped them in their scrolls and burnt them with fire.' Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 57-58

5) Avi Yoneh (1976: 10) in his Roman gazetteer agrees with the identification of Bethther with Battir, though he identified it with Kh. el Hhaydm.

6) Later Byzantine identification maintained the same tradition of mentioning the name Bethar which is usually identified with Battir. The early travels of Bordeaux travel 333 mentioned Betthar as a major road station between Antipatris and Caeserea, 10 miles from Jerusalem.

From Jerusalem as follows:
City of Nicopolis (Amwas) - miles xxii.
City of Lydda (Ludd) - miles x.
Change at Antipatris (Ras el-Ain) - miles x.
Change at Betthar (Tireh) - miles x.
City of Caesarea (Kaisarieh) - miles xvi.
Twenty – eight miles from thence on the left hand, as one goes towards Jerusalem, is a village (villa) named Bethar (Bethel, Beitin).

This particular site may be identified with Bethora of the Madapa Mosaic map (Donner 1992). Later on Eusebius, History of the Church 4.6.1-4 reported about Bethar

The war reached its height in the eighteenth year of Hadrian in Bethar, which was a strong citadel not very far from Jerusalem. The siege lasted a long time before the rebels were driven to final destruction by famine and thirst and the instigator of their madness paid the penalty he deserved.

Eusebius (Hist. Eccl. iv. 6), city named the city ΒιΘΘηρα may be a variation a ΒεΘΘὴρ, ΒηΘὴρ)—which agrees with the Battar; and he states that Bethar lay in the vicinity of Jerusalem.

However, because of these identifications, other scholars had doubt the location of Bethar at Battir. They argue instead that Bethar is to be identified of et Tira south of Qalnswah (Neef 1981 and Applebaum 1987), on the main Roman road connecting Caesarea with Antipatris. Therefore, the reference in the ancient texts may took place at this place but not around Battir.
Later resources continue to mention Battir. The early Ottoman records (Huetteroth and Abdulfattah 1977: 115) recorded Battir as a small village in Liwa Quds (Nahiya Quds). It had 26 households with about 143 inhabitants. The village had 800 olive trees.

### 3.2.2. EARLY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS OF BATTIR

Robinson (Robinson 1857 :185) noted Wady Bittier and a small fountain called Haud Kibriyan without giving any details.

Cunningham Geikie D.D. (1887):

*About a mile beyond Welejeh lay the village of Battir, on the south-west, high on a slope pleasantly banked with fine green terraces, a sparkling rivulet flowing down from it towards us, while the ancient road to Gaza ran up the hill through the village street. Nothing could be more inviting than this quiet nook, with its richly irrigated grain-patches and gardens, dotted with olive- and fig-trees, and fitted beyond many for the vine and mulberry.*

Guerin (1869: 387-395) was the first to identify Kh. el Yahud with Betar. Since then many archaeological surveys were conducted at the site.

The Survey of Western Palestine identified Battir village with Bethar (Conder and Kitchner 1883: 21) and recorded Battir as a:

*A village of moderate size on the precipitous slope of a deep valley, which bends sharply, the hill on this the place stands projecting at the bend of the valley. The houses stand upon rock terraces, and there is a rocky scarp below; thus from the north the place is very strong; whilst on the south a narrow neck between two ravine heads connects the hill with the main ridge. The valleys east and west are steep and deep. The spring above the village is large and good; the water is conducted down from it west of the houses in a cement-lined channel, and runs into a large reservoir, the aqueduct suddenly at a broken arch, of modern masonry and pointed form, the pier being over the east wall of the reservoir, so that the water pours down from it in a cascade. From the reservoir the water finds its way to neat vegetable gardens in the valley beneath; these occupy all the space under the rocky scarps at the junction of the main northern valley with the steep ravine (west of the village) in which the reservoir us built. Near the spring are caves and niches, with an effaced Greek inscription. The village is badly built of stone, and contains two Mukams the are rock-cut tombs about a mile to the east.*

The Survey also documented the site of Kh. el Yahud (Ibid: 128) describing it as “a rocky scarp on the brow of the hill and traces of ruins”

In 1874 Clermont-Ganneau (1896: 463-469) discovered a Latin inscription curved in the rock next to the main spring which he claims mentioning detachments of the fifth (Macedonica) and the tenth (Claudia) legions. This document is often used to verify the story of Bethar.

Zikermann (1906) reported on his survey on the site of Kh. El Yahud, followed by Carroll (1923-24) who draw the first plan of the site.

An antiquity collector known as Edward Perry Warren (1860-1928) had a unique cup from Battir which is now located on the British museum.
Bagatti (1983: 26) reported ruins of fortress, mosaic pavement in probable church and 2nd century pagan inscription.

The British records indicate that the village had “Foundations of buildings, pool, caves, mosaic pavement” and described the site of Kh. el Yahud as including “Remains of fort, drafted masonry, rock-cut caves and tombs, column bases, cisterns, press”. (Government of Palestine 1944).

Kochavi (1972) survey of the 1968 indicated more than one site in the vicinity of Battir. Namely,
4. Kh. El- Yahudi or el Yahud is located on top of a hill. The collected sherds were from south and eastern part and belonged to the Iron I, II, Persian, Hellenistic and Roman periods.
5. Ain le Balad toward the centre
6. Kh. Abu Shawan is a settlement with the size of 150 * 250 with buildings from the Roman and Early and Late Arab Islamic periods.
8. Ein Jami is located between b Battir and Husan used by it had old pool and canals. Scattered sherds from the Iron II, Persian, Roman- Byzantine periods.
9. To the east of Battir the survey identified a main

The major archaeological project was conducted by Ussishkin (1993) who conducted trial excavations at Kh. El Yahud claiming that the excavation was a response to intensive buildings at the site, though the site was away from the village urban expansion. He claims that the excavations confirmed that the site is the location where the events of Bar Kochba took place. The excavations recovered a fortification wall with semi-circular buttress at the southwest side. Three strata were identified to the Iron age II, Hellenistic and Roman periods. However, the best dated materials are based on the coins (1993: 93) which belonged to the Hellenistic period, a date before the event took place. Also only few pottery sherds were published to give a general understanding of the cultural history and were limited only to the Roman period (Singer 1993).

3.2.3. ANALYSIS OF BATTIR HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL VALUE

It is not possible to know the history of Battir before the Iron Age II period. The early settlements were built at Kh. El Yahud and Kh. Abu Shawan, and continue throughout the Roman period. The settlement shifted to nearby places such as Ein Jam’, Husan and Kh. Umm el Shaqef located to the south east where the sites continue to be used during the later periods. It is more likely that the settlement shifted toward the current place of Battir village from the beginning of the Mamluke period through the early and late Ottoman periods. The village starts to flourish during the 1950’s until today.

Battir modern history suggests the uniqueness of this place. The first train railway station connecting Jerusalem with Haifa was established in 1882 and since then helped to flourish the area. Al- Mustafa (1959) reported that the majority of the village inhabitants were employed in services related to the railway and train services. Artuf history in the 1936 revolt is connected to the known Artuf battle. Abdul el Qader was stationed in used Battir Mountains as in his strategy. The women of Battir played a major role in these battles (van Teeflen 2001).

During later decades, villagers reported that the station location lead to a special agreement between the Jordanians and Israelis in the known Rhodes armistice agreements of 1949. Thanks to this agreement, the villagers were allowed to cross the border to cultivate their lands, though they reported that many were killed as a result. The agreement was imposed until the second Intifada.
Previous archaeological fieldworks in Battir region did not give a complete history of the changing landscape of the region. The case may be that previous surveys and excavations were biased by historical accounts. However, based on our field visits, many cultural resources were not documented. Several quarries, lime kilns, tombs, muntars and terraces were not fully studied which were noted in our field visits.

For conducting the analysis and specifying the historical value of the study area, identification of the most important sites was done using the British Mandate Survey maps since 1933 (Map 6) as well as the information from the field survey. The analysis of the value of each site will depend mainly on the age of each site. Hence the section belonging to historical and archeological value in Table 2 will present two main components; these are: number of sites and will be denoted the number of historical and archeological sites in each part of the landscape, and the importance or historical value of each site that will based mainly on the historical age of each site (Table 2).

![Map 6. Historical and archeological sites of importance in Battir area.](image)

### 3.3. LANDSCAPE QUALITY

An assessment of the landscape quality was also done, which includes objective and subjective judgments. Objective analysis of the landscape elements included but not limited to the following elements:

a. Landscape as a resource: this indicates the regional or national importance of the landscape as a rare resource or representative resource of other similar areas.
b. Scenic quality: the landscape should have a pleasant and scenic pattern concerning its aesthetic factors.
c. Consensus: there should be a common agreement between the opinions of the landscape inhabitants and the professional ones on landscape importance either artistically, historically, and literature symbolism.
d. Sense of the landscape: the landscape should acquire unique and distinctive characteristics such as special topography, strong sense of the landscape and sense of visual unit of the landscape as a whole.

e. Unspoilt character: the landscape should not be messed up by large-scale visual harmful and inharmonious development such as industry, quarries, high-rise buildings, etc.

f. Conservation interests: the landscape should have, in addition to the aesthetic and scenic characters, important historical, cultural, natural habitats and wildlife as well as architectural features.

The objective analysis of the positive landscape elements such as landscape quality, vegetation, topography, water resources, and human induced land use was taken into consideration. Points were awarded to landscape that has positive elements or what is called “attractors”, whereas points were deducted whenever the landscape contains negative elements or what is called “detractors” such as quarries, energy power lines, large industrial areas.

The subjective analysis of the landscape was based on field visits, spot image analysis and interpretation, ground surface photographs and old maps of the area. These tools were used as a mean to check the objective assessment of the landscape area.

The landscape study area were divided into four main parts according to the direction and other geomorphologic characteristics (Map 7), these are:

1. Northern part
2. Southern part.
3. Eastern part.
4. Western part.

Each part of the landscape was evaluated using the aforementioned landscape elements and in both way; objectively and subjectively. In addition, each element of the landscape was either exists in each part or does not exist. The total sum of the existing positive landscape elements was then calculated as the total sum of attractors. Additionally, the total sum of negative elements in each part of the landscape was also calculated as the total sum of detractors. The final rank of each part of the landscape is then calculated as the difference between the total sum of attractors and the total sum of detractors. The results of the evaluation are shown in Table 2.

Map 7. Viewpoint directions for the evaluation of different landscape elements in Battir area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape qualities</th>
<th>Eastern part</th>
<th>Western part</th>
<th>Northern part</th>
<th>Southern part</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape attractors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Topography and geomorphology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley/s floor</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terraced mountain side/s</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain/s</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-terraced mountain side/s</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rift area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Biodiversity and natural habitat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubs</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flora</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fauna</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and recreational area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springs</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley/s</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River/s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pool/s &amp; pond/s</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canals (irrigation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Aesthetic factors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>✓ (4)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (1)</td>
<td>✓ (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosure</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (4)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texture</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>✓ (4)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (2)</td>
<td>✓ (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (4)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
<td>✓ (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Consensus &amp; conservation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic and cultural</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Agro biodiversity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to the analysis of the total attractors and the comparison with the total detractors in each part of the landscape, it is obvious that the western part of the landscape areas acquires the highest total positive ranking. This means that this part is the most valuable area in the landscape that should be included in any future conservation and protection. The northern part of the landscape comes closer in the total ranking as the eastern part, which means that this part has high potential for conservation and as a cultural landscape area. Generally speaking, both parts (western and northern) have acquired the following important characteristics that qualify them for, at least, national and regional importance:

a. The diversity of their natural habitat and species.
b. The presence of historical, cultural, and artistic symbols related to both parts.
c. The high aesthetic values that exist in both parts, which are clear from the diversity of the colors, texture, landscape elements and the land forms settings in both parts.
d. The existing potential with regard to land use that resembles traditional and historical characteristics of the inhabitants in the area.
e. The prevailing water structures, water distribution, terraces and water delivery systems that constitute important part of the history and tradition that was and still in use. Taking these into accounts, many changes can be noticed on the cultural landscapes which are noticed by the previous travelers and exploration records. Most of these records agree on describing the terraces and the pools of Battir. These are major stable elements that remained for centuries.
f. Other cultural and historical elements and features which constitute economic and / or religious values. For examples, the two Maqams and the terraces and the pools. The terraces are of a special notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attractors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vineyards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. History and archeology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of existing sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site age value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ATTRACTORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaryes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste disposal site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DETRACTORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL TOTAL RANK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Final evaluation of the landscape area in Battir according to objective criteria.
4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the previous description, the main conclusions that can be drawn out are the following:

1. Only certain parts of the studied watershed area are valuable with regard to the cultural and natural landscape settings; these are the eastern and the northern parts of the landscape area.
2. The valuable parts have a diversity of cultural and natural elements that qualify both parts to be important both on the national as well as the regional scale.
3. In general, the whole landscape area is currently being subjected to drastic and quick development. This development is the resultant of the high population growth rate, and the associated services and infrastructure.
4. The area has been subjected throughout the last 70 years to a quick and large built up area expansion, which has resulted in vanish certain important cultural practices (i.e. vineyards’ cultivation, open surface canals irrigation and the traditional way adopted for water allocation and distribution among the inhabitants of the area).
5. Due to the aforementioned threats, careful zone planning is required. This planning is essential to attain sound and sustainable use of the limited resources in the area.
6. Planning should be accompanied with laws, bylaws and regulation so as to monitor and prevent the current destruction of the existing cultural and natural elements of the area (i.e. archeological thefts, terraces ignorance and destruction, the rapid change of the traditional agricultural area to built up areas).
7. Furthermore, the description of the Survey of Western Palestine can be used to note those aspects of the cultural landscape that had changed. In the general sense, the modern activities have caused many cultural elements that have been described previously to disappear.
8. However, local awareness with the intension of rebuilding certain elements of the landscape should be guided by professional teams. For example, renewing the terrace systems and the renovations of the old pools.
9. Preservation of ancient remains, which are represented by different Khirbeh and other ancient sites.
10. The problem of archeological plundering, which is currently heavily practiced in the area as other areas, should be dealt with immediately.
11. Future management plan, which may include excavations and preservations of the archeological and historical sites, should present the site value in a critical approach that connects the value of the site to Battir cultural history.
12. On the other hand, neglect of agricultural terraces, historical pools and traditional architecture, and the associated shift from traditional cultivations other non traditional activities is a spreading phenomenon that may cause the disappearance of these traditions and their underlying meanings.
13. Erroneous reconstruction and preservation of the existing cultural sites, especially the pools and the springs are essential and urgent.
14. There are adverse and negative environmental effects of the sewage water that is disposed randomly from the surrounding Israeli settlements, which necessitates the immediate interferences to minimize or totally stop these effects. The necessary interferences might be practical and/or physical ones (i.e. redirecting the effluent into closed pipes from its sources) or it could be legal and juridical ones (negotiating the Israeli to stop this action and getting support from the legal system in Israel).
**5. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE LANDSCAPE STUDIES**

**5.1. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES**

In all activities and studies for cultural landscapes, the following general recommendations and comments could be useful:

1. Before doing any preservation work, research of cultural landscape is essential. This is because research findings help to identify landscape’s historic period/s, development, and bring greater understanding of the associations that make them significant. Research findings also provide a foundation to make wise decisions for any future developmental projects, and though can guide management and maintenance.

2. Although there is no single way for landscape inventory, the main objective of any cultural landscape research should be to provide a record of the landscape, as it exists at the present time, thus providing a baseline from which we can suggest future activities and management. All components and features of the landscapes that contribute to the landscape’s historic, cultural and natural character should be recorded. The level of documentation needed depends on the nature and the significance of the resource in question. For example, documentation related to plant material may ideally include scientific name, common name and size and time of nourishment. In addition, and to ensure full representation of the existing natural plants, care should be taken to document the landscape in different seasons. However, this level of detailed research may be ideal for smaller properties, but may prove impractical for large landscapes.

3. Assessing a landscape through history is critical in assessing cultural, natural and historic value and development. By analyzing the landscape change over time, the chronological changes in the landscape can be understood. Based on this analysis, individual features may be attributed to a discrete period of change, their presence or absence could be then attached to a given date and, therefore the landscape’s significance, threat, and development can be evaluated.

4. In order for the landscape to be considered significant, character-defining features that convey its significance in history must be identified such as location, settings, traditions, and other related human activities that belong to the landscape.

**5.2. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE LANDSCAPE STUDIES**

As a general guideline for any future study of landscape, the following basics should be taken into consideration:

i. Landscape as a resource: the proposed landscape should be considered as a resource of either national and/or regional importance (due to rarity or representatives). A cultural landscape may be a significant resource as a rare survivor or as a work of an important landscape architect, horticulturist or design. It may be the site of an important event or activity, reflect cultural traditions, or other patterns of settlement or land use. This significance may be derived from local, regional, or national importance.

ii. Scenic quality: the proposed area should be of high scenic quality with pleasing patterns and combinations of landscape features with important aesthetic factors.

iii. Unspoilt character: the proposed landscape should not be spoilt by large scale, visual inharmonious developments (such as industry, mineral extraction, large urban expansion, etc.).
iv. Sense of the area: one should have a clear sense of the area with distinctive and common characters, which might include topographical visual unity, common traditional land uses that comprises a unity.

v. Conservation interests: the proposed landscape should also include important features of conservation interests such as historical, cultural, wildlife, and architectural features.

vi. Consensus: agreement between professional and the public opinions on the landscape importance should be found, such as those consensus reflected by previous writing and painting on the landscape.

vii. Natural settings: cultural landscapes often derive their character from a human response to natural features and systems. The significance of these natural resources may be based on their cultural associations and from their inherent ecological values. Natural resources form natural systems that are interdependent on one another and which may extend well beyond the boundary of the historic property. For example, these systems can include geology, hydrology, plant and animal habitats, and climate. Some of these natural resources are particularly susceptible to disturbances caused by changes in landscape management. Since natural resource protection is a specialized field distinct from cultural landscape preservation, a preservation planning team may want to include an expert in this area to address specific issues or resources found within a cultural landscape. Natural systems are an integral part of the cultural landscape and must be considered when selecting an appropriate activity.

viii. Environmental Settings: Many cultural landscapes are affected by environmental threats. The establishment of legislation at the state and municipal level though is important for any future development and management plans of the area in question. Work concerning such legislation must be carefully planned and undertaken so that it does not result in the loss of a landscape’s character-defining features. Securing required permits and licenses should be considered early in any future-planned project work, and special efforts should be made to coordinate with public and private sectors responsible for overseeing specific environmental concerns and threats as a result of such projects.

ix. Geographical settings: the surroundings of a cultural landscape, whether an urban neighborhood, rural farming area, naturally made area, or human induced areas, may contribute to its significance and its historic character and should be considered in any landscape studies. The setting may contain component landscapes or features such as the overall pattern of the landscape, views and vistas into and out of the landscape, land use, natural features, and clusters of structures.
6. REFERENCES


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ANNEX 2
MELINA MERCOURI INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
MELINA MERCOURI INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES (UNESCO/GREECE)

Nomination form

I. Identification

(a) Name of property
BATTIR CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (Battir Village and its surroundings)

(b) State
Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

(c) Location
Battir, Bethlehem Governorate, occupied Palestinian territory (see Geographical Location Map, in Annex IVa – 1.A).

(d) Exact location and geographical co-ordinates
Exact location (centre of the area): 31° 43’ 37.40”N, 35° 8’ 15.59”E.
Geographical co-ordinates: from 31°44’ 38.23”N, 35° 7’ 28.78”E to 31°42’ 10.56”N, 35°10’ 28.02”E

(e) Surface of the property and of any buffer zone
Circa 11,5 square kilometers (1150,10 ha.), divided as follows:
• Circa 8 square kilometers (801,40 ha.) is the totality of the territory of the Battir Village;
• Circa 3,5 square kilometers (348,70 ha.) is an area that lies within the territory of the neighbouring village of Husan, which is included in the cultural landscape of Battir for hydrogeological reasons.

The nomination file refers to the concept of “cultural landscape” as a whole, including within the property both archaeological sites, the historic core of the village, as well as its urban expansion (the sprawl town). Therefore, a proper buffer zone is not identified yet, although the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan” looks at the delimitation of a buffer zone around the core area of the terraced landscape in order to ensure its protection.

(f) Legal status, names and addresses of owners
The nominated area is composed of:
Private property: parcels of private land owned by the people of Battir (3,967 inhabitants according to the census of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007) as well as, for a smaller portion, parcels of private land owned by the people of the neighbouring village of Husan;

Public property: land plots owned by the Islamic Waqf (Ottoman titles: i.e. railway road), land and buildings owned by the Palestinian Authority, Ministry of Awqaf (PA Waqf properties: i.e. mosques) as well as public land of key socio-cultural importance (i.e. water sources, public squares, etc.).

The entire property, within the West Bank territory, is under Israeli Military Occupation since 1967. The United Nations Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, the United States, the EU, the International Court of Justice, and the International Committee of the Red Cross refer to it as Palestinian territory occupied by Israel.
According to Alan Dowty (2005), “…Legally the status of the West Bank falls under the international law of belligerent occupation, as distinguished from nonbelligerent occupation that follows an armistice. This assumes the possibility of renewed fighting, and affords the occupier “broad leeway”. The West Bank has a unique status in two respects; first, there is no precedent for a belligerent occupation lasting for more than a brief period, and second, that the West Bank was not part of a sovereign country before occupation—thus, in legal terms, there is no “reversioner” for the West Bank. This means that sovereignty of the West Bank is currently suspended, and, according to some, Israel, as the only successor state to the Palestine Mandate, has a status that “goes beyond that of military occupier alone”.

The current status arises from the facts that Great Britain surrendered its mandate in 1948. Since the area has never in modern times been an independent state, there is no "legitimate" claimant to the area other than the present occupier, which currently happens to be Israel. This argument however is not accepted by the international community and international lawmaking bodies, virtually all of whom regard Israel’s activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an occupation that denies the fundamental principle of self-determination found in the Article One of the United Nations Charter, and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Further, UN Security Council Resolution 242 notes the "inaudimissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" regardless of whether the war in which the territory was acquired was offensive or defensive. Prominent Israeli human rights organizations such as B’tselem also refer to the Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an occupation. John Quigley (2005) has noted that “…a state that uses force in self-defense may not retain territory it takes while repelling an attack. If Israel had acted in self-defense, that would not justify its retention of the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Under the UN Charter there can lawfully be no territorial gains from war, even by a state acting in self-defense. The response of other states to Israel’s occupation shows a virtually unanimous opinion that even if Israel’s action were defensive, its retention of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was not”.

In such a context, after the Oslo Accords¹ and the transfer of authority to the Palestinian Authority, the Battir Village Council has the full mandate of administrating the territory under its jurisdiction (Area B), although Area C, the majority of the land (app. 68%), is contested within the property.

The division of the oPt in separated areas resulting from the Oslo Accords II (1995) has contributed to the fragmentation of the territory and has been an impediment towards a holistic approach to heritage conservation. In Area A (comprising the largest Palestinian urban centres and 17% of West Bank land) the PA was given security and civilian control; in Area B (smaller Palestinian population centres outside the urban areas) the PA was given civilian control whereas Israel retained security control. In Area C (comprising 60% of the West Bank) Israel was given full civilian and security control. Due to the noncontiguous geographical nature of the A, B, and C areas, the C areas physically disconnect the territory under PA jurisdiction. This limited and fractured autonomy has made it very difficult for the PA to govern and implement effectively heritage policies, even more so since the beginning of the Second Intifada (see Geo-political Map, in Annex IV.a – 2.C).

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¹ In 1993, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) began negotiations in Oslo that resulted in the signing of the Declaration of Principles and subsequent Israeli-Palestinian agreements, collectively known as the Oslo Accords. As a result of the Oslo Accords, the PLO formed a Palestinian Authority (PA), made up of a President, Cabinet of Ministers, and a legislative body and, in 1996, organized its first parliamentary and presidential elections.
In 2006 the Battir Village Council was re-elected through administrative elections and Mr. Akram Bader was nominated Head of the Village Council. The address of the Battir Village Council is:
Battir Village Council
(Palestinian Authority, Ministry of Local Government)
Battir - P.O. Box 281 (Bethlehem)
Bethlehem Governorate
West Bank (oPt)
Tel: +970 2 2763509

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The property is nominated as belonging to the second category of cultural landscapes, notably the organically evolved landscape. According to the classification of land units, the different parts of the property fall into both sub-categories:
- Relic (or fossil) landscape;
- Continuing landscape.

A. NATURAL CRITERIA

(a) Integration in the large area

The Battir area is located in the central West Bank, circa 7 kilometers southwest of Jerusalem, west of the top of the ridge of the mountain range that runs north to south along the Mediterranean coast. It stretches from Beit Jala, west of Bethlehem (app. 900 m. above sea level) to the Armistice Line, or Green Line (app. 500 m. above sea level), which divides Israel from the West Bank (see Map of Site Location, in Annex IV.a – 2.A).

Despite its relatively small size, the West Bank is characterized as having great variation in topography as well as ecological and climate diversity. All these factors contributed to the creation of a varied cultural landscape and high biodiversity, as reflected in four agro-ecological zones: Central Highlands, Semicostal zone, Eastern slopes, the Jordan Valley, in addition to the Coastal zone, which characterize the Gaza Strip (see Environmental Map, in Annex IV.a – 1.B).

The Battir cultural landscape is a key feature within the larger Palestinian Central Highlands cultural landscape, which characterizes the Central West Bank. The Central Highlands, with an area of nearly 3,500 square km stretching from Nablus in the north to Hebron in the south, is defined as one of the five Palestinian “agro-ecological zones” by its location, rainfall and altitude, as mentioned above. The zone is mountainous, rising up to 1,000 m above sea level. It is mostly hilly and rocky, and soils are often shallow. Average annual rainfall is about 400 mm. Out of the total cultivated area, 95% is rain-fed 60% under olives, grapes, almonds, and fruit trees, and 35% under field crops, mainly winter cereals and grain legumes. The remaining 5% of the cultivated land is irrigated and used mainly for vegetables.

It is worth to mention that, within the Bethlehem Governorate, another agro-ecological zone - the Eastern Slopes – is stretching at few kilometers east of the Battir area, creating a transitional zone between the Central Highlands and the desert areas of the Jordan Valley agro-ecological zone. The steep mountains with little rainfall that predominate in this region make it an almost semi-arid to desert zone. Agricultural production is of marginal importance and is limited to rain-fed cereals such as wheat and barley.

This makes the Battir area, together with the other Bethlehem Western Villages (Jaba’a, Wadi Fukin, Husan, Nahalin and Al Walaja), particularly apt to agriculture, and subsequently makes it highly strategically important as the “green basket” of the Bethlehem Governorate.
(b) Geology – soil
The topography of the property is characterized by a system of valleys and hilltops, typical of the Palestinian Central Highlands (see Base Map-Topographical Map, in Annex IV.a – 2.B, and the Aerial Photograph, in Annex IV.a – 2.D).

They consist of Cenomanian, Turonian, Eocene and Senonian limestones. The exposures in the area of Battir include marine sediments, mainly dolomite and limestone, as well as chalk, clay, marl, phosphorite, chert, and porcellanite. The beds are folded into an anticlinium. A general geologic map for Israel at a scale of 1:250,000 include also the occupied Palestinian territory.

Several geological maps at different scales are available (see Geological Map, in Annex IV.a – 3.A). In the Central Highlands region, the main soil type is Terra Rossa. This is the most typical soil in the Battir area and is the product of the Mediterranean climate and soil formation on hard limestone. Its soil reaction is generally neutral to moderately alkaline; and it has a high content of soluble salts. Both the high iron content and the low organic matter are responsible for the red colour. They are mainly of loamy texture.

In addition to the Terra Rossa soils, mountain marl soils and alluvial soils are also present in the area. Mountain marl soils are formed from the chalky marls of Senonian and Eocene age; they are covered with Light Rendzina soils. These soils are well distinguished from the Terra Rossa as far as the vegetative cover is concerned. They are not very fertile because of their poor water holding capacity and the high lime content.

In the Battir area, the main soil constraint is erosion in uncultivated hills. Terracing the moderately steep hills with considerable amount of soil is the best possible solution to this problem. Also dumping sites causing soil pollution are another constraint.

A soil map at a scale of 1:250,000 for Israel is published by Dan et al. in 1992. The West Bank is included in this map.

(c) Lakes, rivers, waters
The area, characterized by a dry climate, contains no main rivers or lakes. The main drainage channel is Wadi Battir, which bounds the property to the North. Wadi Battir is a tributary of Sorek River, which empties in the Mediterranean Sea, circa 13 Km south of Jaffa. Wadi Battir flows from the East to the West for about 3.7 Km long. Secondary valleys, emptying their watercourses in the Wadi Battir, are Wadi Ein Jam’a (about 1.3 Km long) and Wadi Abu N’ma, which is called Wadi Halas and then Wadi Mahroun on the West end (totaling about 4.2 Km long). Both tributaries have second level hierarchical order (see Map of Hydrographic System, in Annex IV.a – 3.B).

The area is also characterized by the presence of thirteen water springs (although only seven are still active), from which seasonal watercourses originate and allow the cultivation of the land, being at the root of the inhabitation of the area. The regimentation of waters is at the basis of the agricultural practice and one of the main features of the Battir cultural landscape.

(d) Climate
The area of Battir, situated at the core of the Palestinian Central Highlands, has a Mediterranean climate with long, hot, rainless summers and relatively short, cool, rainy winters. The climate is as such due to its location between the subtropical aridity of the Arabian deserts (the Judean Desert, or Jerusalem Wilderness, is at circa 15 Km on the East), and the subtropical humidity of the Eastern Mediterranean
(the Mediterranean coast is at circa 45 Km on the West). The climate conditions are slightly variable within the area and modified locally by altitude (considering that there are circa 500 meters difference from the bottom of the lower valley to the top of the highest hill). January is the coldest month with average temperatures ranging from 6 to 15 °C, and July and August are the hottest months at 22 to 31°C, on average. More than 70% of the average rainfall falls between November and March; June through September are usually rainless. Rainfall varies from season to season and from year to year, with averages from 500 to 550 millimeters annually. Precipitation is sometimes concentrated in violent storms, causing erosion, and flash floods in the bottom of the valleys. In winter, precipitation often takes the form of snow at the higher elevations.

(e) Vegetation – natural
The natural vegetation of the area is made of Mediterranean maquis. Forests (xeric aspect) dominated by the sclerophyllous evergreen Quercus calliprinos and the deciduous Pistacia palaestina grew on hard limestone with Terra Rossa soil, together with Ceratonia siliqua and Cercis siliquastrum. Mesophytic components rarely occur in the maquis of the Central Highlands. In the driest maquis stands, Rhamnus lycioides subsp. graecus is the only arboreal companion of Quercus calliprinos. Typical vines in these maquis are Rubia tenuifolia, Lonicer a etrusca, Asparagus aphyllus, and Ephedra foeminea. This is in fact a steppe-forest, which developed on hard, fissured limestone. The common dwarf shrub companions are Artemisia sieberi, Astragalus bethlehemiticus, and Argyrolobium crotalarioides.

Marly-chalk is a common rock type within the area, with high moisture retention; it is covered with Light Rendzina soil. The aeration of the rhizosphere of trees and shrubs, whose roots penetrate into the soft rock, is poor; thus only specially adapted plants developed in these conditions. Much of the nitrogen in this soil consists of ammonium ions, whereas in Terra Rossa it is in the nitrate state. The vegetal cover of the Light Rendzinas on marly-chalk is poor in comparison to Terra Rossa's. On this substratum, only a few annual companions are found in the maquis stands. In sites characterized by rock with high clay content and low aeration, the tree Arbutus andrachne dominates. Symbiosis between the tree’s roots and fungi (mycorrhiza) seems to be key to the tree’s success. The only arboreal companion here of Arbutus andrachne is Pinus halepensis; its mycorrhizal fungus (Suillus granulatus) is the most common edible winter mushroom species. On sites with low clay content, Pinus halepensis grows on marly-chalk without Arbutus andrachne. A more detailed list of plant species is attached as an Annex).

(f) Vegetation - actual existing
Cultivated plants have replaced the spontaneous trees in most of this area. A few thousand years ago, local population of the Central Highlands started clearing natural vegetation in order to create agricultural land. Trees such as olives (Olea europaea) and almonds (Amygdalus communis) were domesticated from the spontaneous flora of the area. The timber taken from the forests and maquis was used for the construction of houses, for agricultural tools, and for fire fuel. During the past few millennia, shepherds burned large woodland areas to open paths for domestic animals, and the pasture quality was improved as trees and shrubs were replaced by more palatable herbaceous plants. Fruit trees such as figs (Ficus carica), vines (Vitis vinifera), apricots (Prunus armeniaca) and peaches (Prunus persica) are also largely cultivated, jointly with vegetables and other types of crops like wheat and barley.

After cultivated soil is abandoned, it becomes populated for dozens of years by colorful herbaceous plants and later by low lignified plants. This vegetation formation of Mediterranean semi-shrubs has been known locally since early times as “batha”. At present, after thousands of years of deforestation and agricultural and urban development, large parts of these areas resemble mosaics of seral communities. They feature semi-shrub communities dominated by Sarcopoterium spinosum, Coridothymus
capitatus, and Cistus species. Formations of taller shrubs (garigue) such as Calicotome villosa and Salvia fruticosa replaced the Sarcopoterium-dominated bathas (see Map of Prevalent Land Cover / Land Use, in Annex IV.a – 3.C).

(g) Fauna
Fossils of prehistoric fauna were found in the Levant region, including elephants, rhinoceros, giraffes and wild Asian water buffalo. Today, the largest land animals are mountain gazelles, wild boars, foxes, jungle cats, Nubian ibex, rocky hyrax and the rarely seen leopards, hyenas, jackals and wolves. These wild animals usually come from the surrounding areas to drink water from the existing springs. Avifauna is particularly rich in the area: the bulbul and songbirds such as sylvia warblers and goldcrests nest here year round. A number of raptor species - among them spotted eagles, falcons, hawks, sparrow hawks, kestrels and long-legged buzzards - make their home in the Central Highlands. Only few amphibian species exist in the highlands today. They breed in rain pools and small ponds. Reptiles are better represented: they comprise many native species, among which the poisonous Palestine viper. In totality, land based fauna counts with 730 species including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Furthermore Palestine is as a major pathway for migratory birds.

B. CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS
The cultural landscape of Battir is characterized by a variety of elements that refer to it historically, culturally, socially and economically. In its territorial framework, the traditional cultivation of olive trees represents an essential component of the historical development of the local natural and cultural landscape systems, and incorporates multiple functions and meanings, at the environmental and agricultural as well as at the socio-cultural and symbolic levels. The practice of olive culture is identified by the local populations with the roots of the history and identity of the place and of its community. Olive was domesticated during the Chalcolithic period, while the history of olive oil production can be tracked back to more than 5,000 years, based on the results of archaeological excavations in the Middle East. The significance of olive cultivation transcends therefore the mere economic and agricultural value, as attested by the fact that for many contemporary traditional olive farmers of the village, sentimental and cultural reasons are important drivers, and their ability to take care and work in their olive groves is regarded as an important aspect of quality of life, even when income is secured by other activities.

The historical significance of this cultural landscape is strictly integrated into the system of dry-stone terrace walls that characterize the landscape arrangement of the roughed topography of the area.

Topography
The topography and geomorphology of the territory represent important landscape characterizing elements, which had a fundamental influence on the processes of adaptation and transformation of the territories into specific typologies of historical landscapes, at the visual, ecologic and agricultural levels. The territory of Battir, located along the deep, long Valley connecting Beit Jala to Jerusalem (Wadi Mahrour), is characterized by the roughed topography of the valley, and by the steep gradient of most of its slopes: moving from the southern part to the northern part of the village, the elevation drops sharply from about 900 m to about 500 m above sea level. The jagged profile and the peculiar configuration of the territory present peculiar geological formations and are of impressive scenic value. Hilltops often host plateaus that offer vast panoramic views on the village and on the valley.

Agricultural land use
Agricultural activities constitute a core element of the local territorial system; they are deeply rooted into the history of the places and organically integrated in their deep territorial framework.
Battir agricultural system is characterized by rich agro-biodiversity and by the abundant cultivation of irrigated crops, such as green vegetables and aromatic plants, and pomes trees (apricot, fig, walnut, apple, plum), that used to be marketed in the neighbouring urban centres, such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem, where they were renown for their excellence. Land planted with irrigated green vegetables are mainly located in the lands laying along the valley and around the springs, where water is abundant and the soil more fertile. Most of the irrigated crops are planted on irrigated agricultural terraces located on the hills’ slopes below springs, along or across the profile of the territory - as the lands below the spring of ‘Ein el Balad, on the northern border of the historical centre of the village, and the ones adjacent to ‘Ein Jama’ spring, to the west. The terraces, according to their various typologies, depending on the topography and hydrograpy, are divided in parcels that are called mishkaba and planted with seasonal fresh vegetables, fruit trees and crops.

In Battir the productive function of the agrarian landscape played different roles in different historical periods. Representing an integrated element of a complex agricultural system characterized by rich agro-diversity and by the significant production of irrigated crops, olive trees cultivation fluctuated from primary to subsidiary functions specially in rapport of the broader socio-economic and territorial context, itself characterized by a high level of dynamism due to the proximity of two cosmopolitan urban centres such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem, that represented an excellent market for the green vegetables and the fruit produced in the village. The construction of the Jerusalem-Jaffa railroad and of the Battir train station at the end of XIX century consistently contributed to the expansion and consolidation of a durable and wealthy small scale market based on the specialized production of irrigated vegetables, and in particular of a specific variety of eggplant known as Betanjan Battiri. In this frame, olive trees cultivation represented more and more a secondary, although essential, agricultural activity, associated as complementary in respect of other productive sectors – old (irrigated vegetables) and new (railroad services) – an inserted in a socio-economic dynamic of increasing complexity. After 1948, as a consequence of the restriction of movement and of the expropriation of the railroad that followed the Israeli occupation, olive cultivation, needing low input labour and resources, progressively increased again its relevance in the agricultural production, also for its strategic use for avoiding land confiscation. The territory presents significant portions of uncultivated land and open spaces that are characterized by the presence of rich biodiversity in their wild flora and fauna and by a high scenic value.

In Battir, open spaces and forests represent over the 40% of the total area and are characterized by their great visual beauty. Located mostly in the northern and north-eastern parts of the territory, they are characterized by the presence of a very high degree of biodiversity: the jagged configuration of the wadi and its surroundings, the presence of forests, open land and water resources has encouraged the abundant wild fauna to live in the area and has provided better conditions for flora to grow and spread. Moreover, the restricted uses of land and movement of people on the borders between the West Bank and Israel has provided safe habitat for wild animals and native species. This rich biodiversity is currently under the disastrous threat represented by the new plans for the construction of the Segregation Wall, unilaterally decided by the Israeli Government.

**Traditional olive tree cultivation**

The type of traditional olive trees cultivation of Battir can be defined as extensive, with a low-density plantations of old and very old trees, sometimes planted in an irregular pattern, with low yield levels, low labour and material inputs, and manual harvest. Some cultural operations such as tillage and pruning are not performed on a regular basis. Most of the olive trees plantations are rain fed and promiscuous, often associated to other crops such as fruit trees and field crops, and occupy extensive hilly and mountainous areas that are susceptible to soil erosion due to water runoff. The agricultural activities related to olive cultivation are usually managed on a familiar base, and the olives and oil product used prevalently for self-consumption.
The present extension of land cultivated with olive trees in Battir is of circa 223 hectares, which represents the 28% of the total territory and the 54% of the cultivated land. Also in Battir the prevailing variety of olive tree planted for productive purposes is the Nabali, which is called by the local olive farmers Baladi. A consistent part of the olive trees of the area are old and very old, with the presence of multi-centenary monumental olive groves distributed in different parts of the territory, often in proximity of the historical built up area. The multi-centenary trees are called as well sajar romani and attest of the deep roots of olive cultivation in the historical framework of the territory and in the processes of its definition. A well-conserved and aesthetically relevant multi-centenary olive groves is situated on the hill top and above terraced land in the proximity of the remains of Khirbet el-Yahoud.

Although in Battir the olive landscape is identified by local population as a defining element of the natural and historical arrangement of the territory, the specific and characterizing rural and cultural identity of the place is rather locally perceived and represented as defined by the presence of springs and abundant water resources, and by the cultivation of high quality fresh vegetables. This fact is also revealed by the recurrence of topics, themes and element related to water and to the cultivation of irrigated vegetables in the traditional oral narratives, such as songs and folkloric tales about the local history.

The presence of monumental olive trees in the proximity of important archaeological sites attests of the antiquity of this type of plantation. The olive landscape of Battir is inserted in a context of high agro-diversity, where the cultivation of irrigated crops, in particular fresh vegetables, represents the characterizing element of the local agrarian system. Despite detaining an important role in the agricultural system and economy of the place, the production of olive oil is mostly finalized to self-consumption and small-scale marketing.

**Hydrography and traditional water systems**

Comparing to the average water availability in the West Bank, Battir’s territory is characterized by the abundance of surface and ground water, its seven springs representing a defining element of the history, economy and identity of the place. The diversity in the amount of water resources is reflected in the agrarian system of Battir, well known for the production of irrigated crops, such as fresh vegetables and pomes fruit trees.

In Battir, in terms of historical and cultural landscape formation and development, water resources and water system can be seen as a central environmental factor in the historical processes of formation, shaping and development of the local cultural landscape. A part of the exceptional abundance, the water of Battir, and in particular the water of ‘Ein Jama’, is considered of being a superior quality and of having digestive and depurative properties. Until few decades ago, the water from ‘Ein Jama’ was even sold on a small scale market with Jordanian buyers. At the socio-anthropological level, strategies of communal use and sharing of water resources played a great role in the process of shaping the socio-cultural identity of the local community, which is historically characterized by high level of cohesion and cooperation. Collective action required investment not only in the construction and maintenance of hydraulic infrastructure, but also in collective decision-making processes and enforcement mechanisms. The description of the traditional system of water resources sharing is still in use. The traditional spring flow allocation system is organized around the main unit of the local social system, the hammulah or extended family. An elder of the hammulah is in charge of distribution among the families and among the family members within each family. With a wooden stick of around 70 cm of length that is regularly notched with as many notches as there were water recipients, he would measure the decreasing water level in the pool and order the opening and closing of the pool gates. The space between one notch and the next one corresponded to a unity of measure locally called ma’dud.
Rural dry-stone vernacular architecture

Dry stone rural architectural heritage, in its different functional and structural typologies and sub-typologies (walls, terraces, agricultural constructions), represents one of the main structural and functional components of Palestinian historical rural landscapes. Directly connected to the geomorphology of the territory, vested of important environmental functions - such as soil erosion prevention, maintenance of soil moisture, reduction of rain waters run off, consolidation of slopes - it detains an important role in Palestinian material culture and in the definition of the territorial structure of the local historical agrarian landscapes (see Map of the Dry-stone Masonry System, in Annex IVa – 4.A). Being deeply rooted into popular environmental and traditional knowledge, dry-stone vernacular architecture represents an element of continuity and permanence of the culture and of the identity of many local rural landscapes; it testifies of the ancestral human activity that progressively modeled - and still models – what can be considered as a specific unit and typology of landscape: the dry-stone landscape, vested everywhere with aesthetic, historic, symbolic and ecological values which go far beyond their original practical function.

Visible sign of the dynamic relation between humans and landscape, deeply integrated into the landscape visual an morphological trim, living marker of the history and development of the traditional constructive techniques of the territory, dry-stone architectural heritage represents one the most evident element of the process of landscape anthropization, embodying the materialization of a multi-centenary complex of abilities, knowledge and modes of production. The construction and maintenance of dry-stone landscapes require a great amount of social voluntary cooperative and collective work, called al’āona in the Levant, which is an essential dynamic component of the local agrarian systems and landscapes and of the socio-cultural processes, detaining a core role in the processes of socialization and of transmission of knowledge and abilities.

The dry-stone architectural heritage represents a pervasive component of the Battir Cultural Landscape and is made up of different constructive typologies and sub-typologies of manufactures, detaining different functions that imply different types of intervention and modification of the territory and different degrees of constructive complexity. A first main division of functional and structural typologies consist of the distinction between the broad category of dry-stone walls and terraces, itself internally divided into many sub-typologies, and the one of dry stone agricultural constructions, known as watchtowers, or agricultural palaces, and spread in the agricultural fields in association with specific plantations and seasonal agricultural activities. These rural buildings, constitute important infrastructures of the local agrarian systems, and - used mainly for seasonal or temporary residence during summer agricultural activities – represented a space of intense interaction not only in terms of labour socialization, but also for the rest of social and cultural activities that were taking place during the evening and night hours, such as singing of songs and storytelling.

Terraces

The different typologies that make up the diversified category of dry-stone walls and terraces can be defined following different criteria, varying from their morphological features and their type of integration in the territory, to their functional and constructive characteristics. Strictly associated with the adaptation, systemization and maintenance of the territory for agricultural functions, they vary from very simple manufactures that imply a minimum degree of modification of the territory (such as the stone piles locally called rujum, created from the clearing of agricultural land from rocks and stones), to dry-stone division walls (locally called sensaš and built in flat areas and smooth slopes to divide plots, mark land ownership and prevent animal to enter plantations) and pocket terraces (circular or semi-circular short walls built around single trees, often associated with olive trees cultivation, called midwath), up to complex systems of dry and/or irrigated terraces and retaining dry-stone walls (the
terrace is called locally habale) that are deeply integrated into the local geomorphology and detain essential multiple primary and secondary functions (consolidation of slopes, prevention of soil erosion, optimization of rain water drainage, adaptation of slopes for agricultural uses, reduction of rain water run off) in the maintenance of the territorial and eco-systemic integrity of the landscape.

In Battir, due to the roughed and steeped geomorphology prevailing in the territory, most of the agricultural land is densely terraced, the most pervasive typology of dry stone manufacture being therefore represented by contour retaining terraces, often in association with olive trees cultivation, and cross channel terraces (Khalle), built at the intersection of hill slopes and cultivated with different types of plantation, including irrigated terraces. Retaining walls and contour terraces are indeed a defining component of Battir’s territorial trim and system, detaining important structural functions in the processes of adaptation and maintenance of the local natural and cultural landscape.

They are made up of two main components: the soil bed that constitute the terrace (habale), and the dry stone retaining walls (senasel) at the bottom and at the top border of the terrace. In the local agrarian systemization of Battir many of the dry-stone agricultural terraces are planted with historical consociations of cultivations that include olive trees, vineyards and fruit trees. The dry field agricultural terraced planted with these cultivation are called karm, and are divided in three different parts that are reserved each to a different plant: the front part, called el rahma, is planted with vines; the central plot is called ras el mahna and is planted with fig trees; the third part, adjacent to the upper dry stone retaining wall, el zarb, is planted with olive trees. A peculiar terrace typology characteristic of the dry stone and agrarian landscape of Battir is constituted by contour and cross channel irrigated terraces, located in the lands below spring sources and cultivated with fresh vegetable and fruit orchards, and connected to the spring pools by a complex system of hydraulic channels. Enclosure walls and terraces recur on plateaus, often in association with vineyards and fruit orchards, serving also as windbreaks to protect the plantations. Pocket terraces around single trees and stone piles are also encountered in the agricultural lands, especially in association with olive cultivation. Watchtowers (Agricultural palaces)

Another significant component of the dry-stone heritage is represented by vernacular agricultural constructions known as watchtowers, or agricultural palaces, and locally called qasr, menthar, arish or less frequently skifa. Associated to specific types of cultivation - such as field crops, pomes trees and agricultural seasonal activities, they are spread in the agricultural lands, particularly in the Wadi Mahrour near Beit Jala within in the property, far from the residential areas and originally designated to these types of plantations. They are usually located in the higher parts of the agricultural fields, in order to offer a vast view on the territory and on the plantations to consent their survey (for this reason are also called agricultural watchtowers), and absolved different functions depending on the season and on the type of cultivation and of agricultural activity they were serving. Their use was very intense during the summer season, and especially during the harvest of the crops, when they offered shelter to the farmers and their families that used to move temporarily in the fields. During other times of the year they were used as a storage room for agricultural tools and as a shelter for sheep and goats.

In Battir there were two different types of agricultural palaces in use, characterized by different constructive characteristics and specific functions. The one locally called skifa or areej was of small proportions, having a square or sometimes circular shape and a roof made of a wood called tarqwis and taken by the cut branches of cypresses, and of shrubs, called natish. The roof was seasonally substituted and repaired with new branches, while the old ones were carried to the village and used as wood in the house during the winter. The internal part of stonewalls, as well as floor, were plastered with a mix of mortar and straw. Outside of the skifa there was often a flat rock that was used to dry fruits, called masatyia or Nasarat ‘eineb. These constructions were associated to the cultivation of field crops and
vineyards, and were often built in the type of agricultural terrace called karm, described above, and absorbing to the same functions mentioned above (seasonal residence, animal shelter, storage). On the other hand, the other type of agricultural palace locally called menthar or qasr - typical of the historical agricultural landscape of the area of Wadi Mahrou and Beit Jala – was characterized by a much more complex and permanent architectural structure, having two floors, stairs and windows and a stone vault roof. It is important to notice that in the case of the areej is not correct to talk of dry stone architecture, since the constructive materials are not limited to stones, but include also the use of mortar for the consolidation of the structure, similarly than for the construction of the traditional village houses. The stones for the construction of this type of menthar were cut and refined by specialized artisans, while the construction was conducted under the supervision of at least one professional builder. The average height of these buildings varies from 5 to 7 m. The lower floor was used as animal shelter and storage room, while the upper room was used for residential purposes.

This type of construction were often used as a permanent residence for farm labourer employed by wealthy landlords to survey, supervise and cultivate their lands throughout the year. Just outside the building it is often present a flat rock, called el rukbah or derdas, that was used for crashing small amounts of olives or other fruits.

**Limekilns**

Another interesting manufacture that used to be present in the two territory and is not included in the category of the dry stone is represented by the traditional limekilns, called qabbara or lattoun, that until few decades ago the local population used to produce lime mortar, locally called khallale, from local lithic and soil materials. The traditional limekilns were not permanent, but constructed in areas where the material needed to produce the lime mortar was abundant, and then they were dismissed when that material was worn out, to be rebuilt in other areas. Traditional limekilns were constituted of wide holes dug in the soil, on hills slopes usually, and covered by a dry stone dome like dry stone roof having a small opening on the top. The mortar was produced by lighting a big fire, bringing and keeping it to a high temperature for at least 5 or 6 days, until the lime mortar was ready. The material produced was used locally by the villagers to build and maintain the houses of the village. In Battir village, around the end of XIX century a permanent limekiln was built at a short distance of the village core. This limekiln, built on the western slope of Wadi Abu N’ma, is of big dimensions and has a square shape. It is constructed with bricks, stones and mortar, has a lower furnace and a higher room surmounted by a vault roof with a central hole. It rested in use and productive until the end of the 1940s, when it was dismissed as a consequence of the Israeli-Arab war.

**Historical road network and railway**

The historical road network is an essential component of the deep structure of the property and is strictly connected with the historical development of the cultura landscape, especially in relation to its economic relations with the broader regional context in its agricultural and productive characterization. Battir’s historical road network runs along the profile of the eastern slopes of a long system of valleys, connecting the village with Bethlehem through Beit Jala, and to the southwest to Jerusalem. The road to Jerusalem was following the wadi, passing through ‘Ein el-Hanie and ‘Oleek villages, then reaching a place called El-Malha. From there the pathway was passing through Katamon reaching finally the walled town of Jerusalem through Bab el-Amoud or Bab el-Khalil. Since ancient times the marketing of fresh vegetables represented a fundamental element of the local economy, contributing to the stabilization of the characteristic agricultural system of Battir. The historical road to Beit Jala, still in use, runs along the middle slopes of Wadi Mahrou, and is characterized by a surrounding panorama of impressive beauty. In modern history of the village, the completion of the construction, in 1882, of the Jerusalem–Jaffa railway contributed to the further expansion of the commercial and socio-
economical network with the surrounding cities, providing both access to the city's opportunities as well as to direct income from passengers who would disembark when the locomotives stopped to take on water, and from job opportunities in the railroad services and maintenance. The railway station, called El Mahatta or el Bakhrí (the ship) and that included a water and coal filling station, represented a lively social and economical space: when the trains stopped for supplies, the passengers used to disembark to buy fresh vegetable and other agricultural products on the square in front of the station, where the farmers used to put up a temporary market. The construction of the railroad had the negative consequence of reducing drastically the forested area and the tree population of the area of Battir, because of the cutting of many trees, both for clearing and preparing the path, both for constructing the binary. Following the accounts of some of the key informants, also many big olive trees were cut during this period.

Archaeological heritage

Presence of archaeological ruins and remains of different periods (Canaanite, Roman, Byzantian, Mamluk, Ottoman) attests of a long history and of the presence of different layers of civilisation and of different phases of domestication of the local landscape, the relevance and state of conservation of the archaeological heritage of the property is high. It includes significant sites (such as the ruins of a fortress called Khirbet el-Yahoud) and infrastructures (such as the spring pools and the hydraulic infrastructures and system started during the Roman period and further developed through the Islamic one, including spring pools and canals) that are of great historical value and represent essential components of the village living landscape. The landscape is also characterized by the presence of scattered rock-hewn tombs (generally dating back to Roma and Byzantium periods), which nowadays constitutes sometimes the water reservoirs for irrigation purposes.

C. TYPICAL FORMS OF SETTLEMENT

(a) Architectural features

In addition to the rural dry-stone vernacular architecture, as described above, architectural features are present in the urban area only. They consist in a variety of typologies resulting from the combination of the three main types, as represented in the Map of the Human Settlement System, in Annex IV.a - 4.B):

A: Traditional masonry structure unit, vault ceiling, and bearing stone walls.
B: Mixed structure unit, reinforced concrete slab, and bearing stone walls.
C: Reinforced concrete structure unit, reinforced concrete slab, and reinforced concrete columns.

(b) Forms of settlements

The historic centre of Battir village, and in particular the core of the residential neighbourhoods, was almost completely destroyed in the course of the early 1980s. The explanations and information given from diverse informants about the reasons and dynamics of the demolition differ amongst them: initially, we were told that the village was demolished by the Israeli forces as a collective punishment. Other informants specified that the action of the Israeli was not direct, because the demolition followed an official decision taken by local corrupted authorities entertaining relationships with Israeli businessmen interested in the reconstruction. Following the accounts of informants, the early phases of the construction of the village started around four centuries ago with the restoration and re-adaptation into houses of stables and storerooms attributed to the Roman period and called boubaryiat. One of the key elements of the village core was the spring pool of ‘Ein el Balad, that was serving the villagers for their domestic water needs. The spring and the space around it represented the centre of intense social interactions and encounters. Close by the spring there was the old Omari
Mosque, today not anymore visible, and beside the spring pool there is a sort of bathing room that was used by the villagers for ablution before prayers. Few big trees, and in particular an impressive mulberry tree, where hosting under their shade the men who gathered to talk and play traditional games in the evening hours, or after prayer. Despite destroyed, the historical village core is considered and represented as an important element of the landscape, and it is deeply rooted in the collective representations of the local identity, specially in rapport of its historical roots and development. In the local narrations and oral history it emerges frequently as a sort of “invisible architecture” that is the map and the signpost of a time of peace and harmony. The demolished part of the village is still known as El Haraji, and it was constituted by a dense cluster of small traditional houses – called skifa, like the local typology of agricultural palace also known as arish – and of bigger and more complex buildings. Houses were built with local materials: stones and rocks, and lime mortar produced locally.

At the centre of the Haraji there was a neighbourhood known as Hosh el Dabub because of its central location: dabub in fact is a term used to identify the small piece of dough that is left after you finish cooking bread in the traditional oven, the taboun and that is placed to cook right at the centre of the oven, in the middle of the other bread cooking. Another neighbourhood was called Seven Widows because there was a concentration of widows amongst the inhabitants. In the Haraji there were also few buildings, with a court in front, that were called saha and that belonged each to a different hamula. The saha represented essential male social and cultural spaces, where men used to gather to perform different recreational collective activities, such as storytelling (old story are called hazazziz), riddles, singing and playing. Amongst the different saha of the village, there was always a more important and prestigious one, that was belonging to the most influential hammula of the time, and that was attended by almost all the males of the village, not only form the members of the extended family. The main saha was serving not only recreational functions, but also administrative and communal, as popular tribunal, space of conflict negotiation and resolution etc. The location of the main saha was therefore moving and migrating to different places depending on the historical and sociological frame, following the movement of the political and economic power. The expansion of the village started to accelerate around the early 1920s, with the British Mandate.

In Battir the development of the new built up area was and is heavily influenced by the geopolitical zoning of the territory. Concentrated along the actual main road connecting the village to Beit Jala through El Khader, it is also characterized by a negative visual impact on the landscape, due to the of the absence of an organic master plan (see Map of the Human Settlement System, in Annex IV.a - 4.B).

**D. AESTHETIC QUALITIES**

An important element of excellence of Battir cultural landscape is represented by its high scenic and aesthetic value, which has a strong impact on the visual characterization of the local landscape. Due to the high degree of agro-biodiversity and to the traditional agricultural practices, characterized by its division into terraced patches and by promiscuous cultivations, the visual characterization of Battir landscape presents the features of a mosaic, within which olive landscape represents an element of continuity in the frame of diversity. The mosaic typology of traditional rural landscape is characterized by the presence in the same field of different types of cultivations, such as olives, vineyards, orchards, cereals, vegetables, meadows and shrubs, arranged in patches and divided by different types of fences, such as dry stone walls or shrubs hedges. Consequently, the landscape takes on the appearance of a “mosaic” of crops, plantations and open spaces. The aesthetic value of the historical landscape is enhanced by the roughed and articulated topography of the territory, and by its arrangement in the complex system of different typologies of dry-stone terraces (see Map of Natural and Cultural Landmarks, in Annex IV.a – 5.A).
The high scenic value of Battir cultural landscape should not be underestimated, since the very aspect of experiencing the landscape and its visual attraction can be in many ways considered as one of the basic and essential features of a landscape. Moreover, the aesthetic experience of landscape is the quality that should be of utmost significance for landscape visitors, and can be therefore associated with considerations about the possibilities for tourist and recreational activities in the landscape. In this perspective, this cultural landscape can be seen as an important resource associated with economic activities other than agricultural. The aesthetic experiencing of landscape is by all means a complex phenomenon, depending not only on the cultural landscape features, although physical and visual characteristics of a scene are an external basis on which each visitor builds his own specific aesthetic experience. The latter, of course, means that it is not possible to achieve a full agreement on which physical features of landscape are the basis of aesthetic experience, which means that there are no objective criteria for this particular landscape feature. By means of a detailed classification and a gestalt understanding of physical landscape characteristics it is, however, still possible to discover more basic generators of aesthetic experience of a more general validity and significance for the majority of observers.

E. HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Being situated at the centre of the Palestinian Central Highlands, the property benefitted of its strategic geographical location throughout the centuries. The occupied Palestinian territory continues to be nowadays the platform for the interaction and an important route of migration and encounter between diverse cultures and civilizations, functioning as a bridge between Eastern and Western societies.

The occupied Palestinian territory, alias the Holy Land, the land of many narratives, contrasts, layers and textures, has always been the object of rivalry: Canaanite, Assyrian, Egyptian, Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic, Christian crusader, Mamluk, Ottoman, British and eventually Israeli colonization have left evidences of their presence across the area.

The history of Battir starts to be known during the Iron Age II period. The early settlements were built at Khirbet El-Yahoud and Khirbet Abu Shawan, and continue throughout the Roman period. After the siege and destruction of the city by the Romans, the settlement shifted to nearby places such as Ein Jam'a, Husan and Khirbet Umm El-Shaqef, located to the southeast of the original location. Here, mainly due to the abundance of water produced by natural springs, the inhabitants continue to live throughout the centuries. It is more likely that the settlement shifted toward the current place of the Battir village at the beginning of the Mamluk period, although archaeological fieldworks, mainly carried out by Israeli expeditions, did not shed light on the history of the changing landscape of the region prior to 1948. The case may be that those surveys and excavations were biased by historical accounts. However, on the basis of the existing bibliography, and confronting it with the landscape analysis undertaken within the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan”, it can be affirmed that several quarries, limekilns, tombs, muntars and terraces were not studied in a comprehensive manner.

Changes in the territorial orientation of the property and in the practices of its inhabitants occurred after 1948. Prior to 1948, Battir and its surrounding villages looked to Jerusalem –culturally, economically and from the point of view of spatial practices. The inhabitants of the area, particularly known for its cultivation of vegetables, used to sell their produce at the town markets. Significantly, in the past, these villages were known as “the basket [of vegetables] of Jerusalem”. The system of irrigated terraces
played an important role not only in the economic life of the area but also in determining the mobility of its inhabitants, who travelled daily to the markets in the District of Jerusalem.

After 1948 and the “temporary ejection” of its inhabitants, Battir founded itself on the Green Line. Its inhabitants made their complete return to the village thank to the strategic political initiative of their mukhtar (local chief), Hassan Mustapha. After the Jordanian-Israeli Armistice Agreement (1949), a progressive separation of the village from Jerusalem began, with the closure of the Battir Railway Station.

Since the Fifties of the past century, the village started to turn into an increasingly “Bethlehem oriented” village, with the construction of its main road, a pathway historically not used, leading to Bethlehem.

The transformation of the agricultural and socio-economic life of the village is directly linked to and affected by the Israeli policies in the area, especially after the construction of new infrastructures, including settlements and by-pass roads, during the Oslo Accords and post-Oslo era. The encirclement of the village and its territory during these periods, the new mobility system through tunnels and separation of roads, were all elements reinforcing the “enclavisation” of the village, which has led to an increasing socio-economic crisis.

In early 2000s, the Government of Israel decided to build a “Separation Barrier”, made of a concrete structure called “the Wall”, which actually surrounds the Bethlehem urban area and therefore further separates and isolates Battir from Bethlehem. Another segment of the “Wall” is planned in the area west of Bethlehem affecting the western villages surrounding Battir and their connection to Bethlehem infrastructures and services.

In the last six years, the Israeli media and several Palestinian as well as Israeli NGOs disclosed a plan for the construction of a new settlement in the territory of Al Walajeh and Battir. According to B’tselem, the plan of the settlement, called Giv’at Yael, foresees at least “14,000 apartments”, determining a huge impact on the village of Al Walajeh, which will be completely encircled, and destroying the historical landscape and territorial system of Wadi Mahrour, one of the most valuable areas of the property in terms of cultural landscape.

**F. DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF ITS PRESENT STATE OF CONSERVATION**

On the base of the findings of the research conducted during the implementation of the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan”, it is possible to affirm that the property presents a high landscape value. The cultural and natural landscape detains many peculiar traits of excellence in its visual characterization and in its ecologic, agrarian, historic and socio-anthropologic defining traits. These traits, constituted by tangible and intangible elements and components, represent an important heritage, and present high potential as basic and core resources for the sustainable development of the two territories, particularly in rapport of eco and cultural tourism and of eco-museum planning. In terms of SWOT analysis, they can be identified as points of internal strength in rapport of the possibility of success of developmental projects based on natural and cultural landscape valorization.

On the other side, from the research emerged also that there are many different internal and external factors that are affecting negatively the quality of the landscape at the visual, ecologic, socio-economic...
and cultural levels and that are risking to severely and definitively compromise the integrity of the two territories and the possibilities for their sustainable development. One of these elements can be definitely individuated in the progressive increasing devaluation and crisis of the agricultural sector and of traditional agricultural activities and environmental abilities, caused by the crossfire of globalization and of the Israeli occupation. In terms of external menaces, the effects of the Israeli occupation and its possible expansion represent the main threat in respect of any type of developmental plan implying landscape planning. The internal and external elements of weakness threatening the property need to be surveyed and controlled with organic integrated actions finalized to their reduction and correction.

**Traits of strength and excellence**

The intrinsic biotic, a-biotic and anthropic key-elements of the property correspond to the ones emerging from the landscape analysis. They can be summarized in the following points:

- Hydrography, geomorphology and geology: springs and abundance of water resources / beauty of the jagged profile of the wadi / peculiar geological formations / natural terraced landscape;

- Historical agrarian landscape: dry stone agricultural terraces and walls / dry stone agricultural palaces / dry stone irrigated agricultural terraces / fresh vegetables (betanjan battiri) and fruit orchards;

- Open spaces and open views: scenic beauty of valley and of the valleys bed and slopes / rich biodiversity / wild flora and arboreal vegetation / panoramic views;

- Archaeological heritage: Khirbet el Yahoud / Roman spring pools and channel system / Caves, tombs, remains of Canaanite, Roman and Islamic periods;

- Human resources: high socio-economical and cultural value assigned to traditional agrarian practices, knowledge and abilities / high level of internal cohesion / dynamic socio-cultural context and historical background / dialogic, flexible and open sociological framework / collective memories preserved by local historians.

The broader territorial regional context presents features that could be considered as exogenous point of strength in relation to the development of locally based projects of sustainable development focusing on the safeguard and valorization the local natural and cultural landscape through integrated actions. At the agricultural level, the creation and implementation of a network of local producer could encourage and sustain the traditional agricultural practices and preserve typical agricultural produce within a system of short chains at the level of production, consumption and transformation of products, that could be oriented toward the production of typical high quality alimentary goods and craftworks. A part of contributing to the food security and the quality of the dietetic regime of the inhabitants of the region, these product could be marketed within local activities and initiatives linked to the cultural, gastronomic and eco tourism sectors. The establishment of cooperative exchange and communication between villages could create opportunities and favour the expansion and promotion of the eco and cultural tourism activities through their insertion in the broader regional network. These processes could represent a first step toward the development of broader territorial systems based on the networking of the local agrarian landscapes into a constellation of local places and spaces, both in their agricultural and productive connotations and functions, both in their specific cultural and agrarian identity.
General problems, threats and constrains

The property is severely affected by a set of weak points which are due to similar types of constrains. One of the general exogenous problems influencing negatively the present condition and the future possibilities of the two natural and cultural landscapes can be considered as chronic, and it is represented by the Israeli occupation and by its repercussions on the integrity and functionality of the local economic, agricultural, environmental and socio-cultural systems. As illustrated above, the distortions caused by the Israeli occupation accelerated and radicalized the processes of de-territorialization and of de-localization brought up by the expansion of the dynamics of economic and cultural globalization that affects many other rural places and spaces of the world and that determines a dramatic loss of income productive capacities of the traditional agricultural activities. The combination of these two macro scale factors impacted negatively the functionality of the two local agrarian landscapes, with progressively increasing disruptive effects on the integrity of their identity.

The main traits of weakness of the property can be summarized in the following points:

- Crisis of the local agricultural economy and productive system that brought to the abandonment of significant portions of agricultural land, to the progressive loss of important environmental knowledge and agrarian abilities and to a general dramatic economic and sociologic impoverishment of local communities;

- Scarc environmental awareness of local population, specially youth, due to the alienation of the inhabitants form their territory caused primarily by the devaluation of agricultural activities and agrarian abilities (employment in other sectors rather than agriculture, high rates of unemployment) and to the absence of compensative comprehensive initiatives of environmental education and sensitization;

- Absence of policies and of organic educative and/or operative actions oriented toward sustainable landscape planning, environmental safeguarding and sustainable development, resulting in: uncontrolled urban expansion; uncontrolled solid waste; water, air and soil pollution;

- Stagnation of the local economy due to the reduced freedom of movement of people through the space and to the heavy limitations in the possibilities of circulation, marketing and exchange of goods due to Israeli occupation;

- Deterioration of the local socio-economic and cultural fabric due to the general impoverishment and to the vanishing of important collective spaces and occasions of cooperation and socialization in the frame of landscape maintenance and agricultural activities. These phenomena determined a loosening of the social cooperative bonds at the base of the local social and cultural dynamics;

- Loss of popular spaces and forms of expressions, such as traditional songs and narratives, the creation and performance of which was strictly associated to agrarian activities and which embed the intangible aspects of the local social and collective memory of the place;

- Limitations and restriction in the access and possibilities of land use and risk of significant confiscation of significant parts of the land from Israeli forces.
III. Justification of the nomination

1. VALUE OF THE PROPERTY

(a) Justification of the value and significance of the property as cultural landscape

Battir Cultural Landscape, within the larger feature called “Land of olives and vines”, was included in the “Inventory of cultural and natural heritage sites of potential outstanding universal value in Palestine”, issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in 2005 and reprinted in 2009, with the technical assistance of the UNESCO Ramallah Office and the financial support of the World Heritage Fund, de facto constituting the Palestinian World Heritage Tentative List. The “Land of olives and vines” is defined by the historic landscape characterized by terraced agriculture (senasel), including archaeological features (qusur) and sites (khirbet, rock-hewn tombs) dating back to the Bronze Age, as well as human settlements continuously inhabited since early times.

The “Justification for the Outstanding Universal Value”, as included in the above-mentioned “Inventory”, reads as follows: “Olive trees and vineyards are characteristic, and deeply symbolic, features in the Palestinian cultural landscape. While both of course grow elsewhere, separately and together they are highly representative of the identity and character of the Palestinian landscape throughout history and of the ways that people have worked the land. They represent good examples of adapting to nature and making productive steep and uneven terrain. They are very clear testimonies of the continuous history of human settlement in the region over the past four thousands years. Furthermore, both feature strongly, in narrative and metaphor, in the Quran, in the Bible and in the teaching of Jesus in particular. The olive is of course a symbol of peace and would, therefore, be a particularly apposite tree to include in a nomination from Palestine when that becomes possible”.

This is how Prof. Peter Fowler, World Heritage specialist from the UK and author of numerous publications on cultural landscapes, described the property and its value and significance, after a field visit undertaken in February 2010:

“This is a landscape produced by centuries of hard work; it could be destroyed in days by ill-considered actions. Within it are kilometers of hand-built terrace walls, necessary to hold the shallow soils on steep, stony slopes; vegetables once grew on these terraces, now they provide the slopes for row of olives. Olives also grow in groves. This visually spectacular landscape also contains many other elements: a prehistoric hilltop, fortifications, roman graves, villages of ancient origin, fields of many different type and date, irrigation system and the features that made the landscape work for people struggling to gain a livelihood from it. Old tracks, contemporary with the fields, wind between them; among the fields and terraces are stone-houses, watchtowers, clearance cairns (rujoum) and steps and ramps between the terraces. Overall, these things form a cultural landscape of considerable scientific interest and beauty. Especially is this so in a Palestinian context where extents of such quality landscape have become quite rare under the pressures of modern development. A carefully selected part of this landscape, especially one characterized by the tree of peace, the olive, could almost certainly meet the criteria of a world heritage cultural landscape as envisaged in the “Inventory of cultural and natural heritage sites of potential outstanding universal value in Palestine” (PA Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and UNESCO, 2005). A well-informed and sensitive management of the area would seek to respect its values and fragility” (see Map of Natural and Cultural Landmarks, in Annex IV.a – 5.A).
(b) Authenticity and integrity of the property

The property owns an ascertained "authenticity", as the continuity in creating and maintaining this landscape, that continuously evolved since at least three millennia to present times, is an evidence that clearly emerged through the research work carried out in the framework of the "Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan". The little degree of alteration to the physical structures of the territory (the terrace walls as well as the watchtowers) testifies of a suspension in the transformation of the elements of the land that characterize this landscape.

Other considerations shall be applied to the concept of "integrity" of this landscape, where extensive phenomena of abandon are witnessed, starting with the Nakba (the forced migration of 1948), which resulted in a large number of refugees, and still continue, due to the main reason of people's despair, notably the Israeli occupation. The lack of a proper management of the territory, determined by the geo-political zoning resulting from the Oslo Accords (cfr. paragraph I.f above), as well as by a structural unpreparedness of the Palestinian institutions (in terms of law-making, planning and distribution of financial resources) significantly affected the integrity of the territory in the past two decades. However, the recent developments in the area (started with the elaboration of the "Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan" and continuing with the establishment of a "Landscape Eco-museum") are giving encouraging signals of an inversion of the trend. For example, the "Landscape Eco-museum" project foresees the clearance of various dump-yards in the valleys as well as the rehabilitation of pathways and terraces in both the stones and the plants components, according to international standards of conservation and restoration (UNESCO and ICOMOS Charters).

2. MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

(a) Institutions and organizations in charge of property’s management and conservation

- Office for the Battir Cultural Landscape Plan
  C/o Battir Village Council
  (Ministry of Local Government, Palestinian Authority)
  Battir - P.O. Box 281 (Bethlehem) Bethlehem Governorate
  West Bank (oPt)
  Tel: +970 2 2763509;

- Battir Landscape Eco-museum
  C/o Battir Village Council;

- Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage
  C/o Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Palestinian Authority
  Ramallah – P.O. Box 870
  West Bank (oPt)
  Tel: +970 2 2409891

(b) History of the conservation

Cultural landscapes, biodiversity, traditional knowledge, tangible and intangible cultural heritage manifestations are indissolubly associated. The definition of cultural landscapes clearly states this link: "cultural properties that represent the combined works of nature and of man". Thus, cultural landscapes are complex heritage categories embracing a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment and thus encompassing tangible, intangible
cultural and environmental (e.g. scenic beauty, geological features, bio-diversity etc.) values. People’s life, beliefs, identity are indissolubly linked with their landscape. A landscape is the locus of culture, the vessel of a collective memory and source of inspiration (e.g. Palestinian cultural landscape and natural heritage associated to it, has served as a central inspiration and motif for psalmists, prophets and pilgrims) and of social and economic development (most of the Palestinian cultural landscapes are put to agricultural use and constitute the main source of income for many small farmers).

Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land use and their protection can maintain or enhance biodiversity and natural/environmental values. The continued existence of traditional forms of land use not only is helpful in maintaining biological diversity but also in safeguarding a know-how and a system of beliefs and traditions that constitute an indissoluble part of people’s heritage. This is particularly evident in Battir, where agriculture has been always been vital.

In Battir, the conservation of the cultural landscape assets, for centuries, was always in the hands of its inhabitants, who carefully maintained and use their landscape as their own main resource. Only very recently, under the growing dangers that threaten the area, UNESCO and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, in cooperation with the local authorities, started to prepare studies and plan for an integrated protection of the Battir Cultural Landscape (see also MOTA, Palestinian Authority, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (2006), attached as an Annex).

(c) Present protective measures (legal and/or traditional) and how they are implemented

Besides the problems posed by the complex political environment, the major challenge to cultural heritage, including cultural landscapes, protection and management in the oPt remains the lack of an updated and common legislative framework encompassing different forms of heritage able to meet the cultural needs of the today’s Palestinian society. Indeed, the existing law, which protects only tangible heritage (movable and immovable objects and buildings older than 1700 and human and animal remnants predate 600 AD), was introduced during the British mandate (1920-48). As the British mandate covered also today’s Jordan, the same law is also sometimes referred to as the Jordanian Law of Antiquities as it was applied (with small amendments) during the period of Jordanian rule in the West Bank (1948-67).

On the initiative of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of the Palestinian Authority, a new draft law has been prepared. The new draft law has a more integrated approach as encompasses provisions to safeguard other components of cultural heritage and seeks to define administrative roles and responsibilities of all actors involved in heritage protection and management.

However, the Palestinian Legislative Council is not functioning since early 2007, therefore the re-establishment of a more stable political situation is essential for the promulgation of the law. At any rate, the law includes the protection of cultural landscapes as a key cultural heritage component. The last version of the draft, in English, is attached for easy reference (see Annex IV.c).

At the same time, protection of the cultural landscape assets is guaranteed by the continuity in the agricultural use of the land, which persists by utilizing traditional practices. Support to local farmers regarding the sustainable use of their land is foreseen within on-going projects, e.g. the “Battir Landscape Eco-museum - Conservation and management of natural and cultural landscape in the Bethlehem Governorate”, funded by the Italian Decentralized Cooperation through the Palestinian Municipalities Support Programme (PMSP). The approved Concept Note of the project, which summarized project’s objectives, activities and expected results, is attached for easy reference.
Battir’s local population and authorities show a high degree of awareness about the great value and potential of their outstanding natural and cultural landscape as a multifunctional and dynamic resource, and have a clear understanding of the importance of maintaining it and developing it within the frame of sustainable change. Traditional agricultural farming, despite the loss of economical value, remains an important element of the villagers life and of the landscape arrangement, and it represents for them an efficacious mode of resisting to the disruptive direct and indirect effects of the Israeli occupation, both materially and symbolically. While materially it is a strategy to try preventing land confiscation while guarantying food security and self sufficiency, symbolically the phenomenological continuation of deep traditional cultural knowledge helps to reinforce a contested and threatened historical and cultural collective identity which is embedded in a unique relationship between the people and their environment.

Lastly, through the enforcement of the regime of restrictions prevailing in Area C, paradoxically, the Government of Israel contributes to the protection of the cultural landscape assets in the area of Battir, e.g. building licenses are currently denied, as well as road construction and any other type of infrastructure work. However, colonial settlement expansion and the construction of the “Separation Barrier” constitute serious threats to the integrity of the area (cfr. paragraph III.2.j below).

(d) Policies, programmes and activities implemented for the preservation and presentation of the property and assessment of achievements

As mentioned in paragraph III.2.b above, to date, main custodians of the property were the people of Battir, notably the farmers. However, nowadays, the dynamics present in and around the property do not consent to rely only on traditional practices of land use, but rather require a highly specialized expertise to produce a set of effective tools to enable the Palestinian national and local authorities to safeguard this outstanding landscape. Preliminary research was conducted by MOTA, UNESCO and scholars, although the key programme for the holistic safeguarding of the Battir Cultural Landscape is considered the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan”, prepared by the Office for the Plan with the technical assistance of a multidisciplinary team of experts (in this regard, see Barone, P. (2009), in Annex, as the main guiding document for the elaboration of the Plan and Maps of Land Units, Land Use / Land Vocation, Pace of transformations and related risk factors, in Annex IV.a – 6.A/6.B/6.C). In particular, the definition and identification of Land Units, undertaken according to scientific methodology (cfr. Zonneveld, I. S. (1989), included in the Select Bibliography for easy reference) and developed through field work (geological, botanical, land use surveys in scale 1:2,000) for the first time in the oPt, set a model for other experiences in the region. As of today, the Plan is being finalized, for its endorsement, by the Battir Village Council (a synoptic table was drafted to facilitate the discussion within the Council, attached to the present nomination as an appendix to the enclosed Plan). However, the Plan, which owns a layered validity for landscape protection also as a counter-plan to the Israeli unilateral policies, does not constitute the sole initiative to preserve the cultural landscape. In conjunction with the Plan, a set of activities were organized in the past two years, focusing on awareness raising, community participation, involvement of decision-maker at high level, educational programmes (a two-month residential Summer Programme of Al-Quds University-Bard Honors College on Planning, Space and Law and is currently on going in Battir), advocacy campaigns, etc.

The assessment of achievements is so far very positive, as attention was raised on the cultural landscape for the first time in the oPt, as well as considerable funding is expected, as the result of concerted action.
(e) Management and development plans, statement of objectives and analyses of their implementation

As mentioned in the paragraph above, management planning is the key to achieve the safeguarding of the property. It is too early to analyze its implementation, although positive results were seen during the drafting process, e.g. the Office of the Plan is located in the historic core of the village at the ground floor of an historic building, and is regularly visited by the citizens of Battir, who sometimes are simply curious or interested in getting information on a given aspect of their land. This enabled the Plan to be fully embedded within the village and its population. At any rate, key statement of the Plan is to preserve both the physical assets of the Battir Cultural Landscape, both natural and cultural, as well as its traditional productive use for the benefit and enjoyment of Palestinian people, and enhance its potential as a credible destination for responsible tourism. More in detail, the statement of objectives reads as follows:

- Ensure the effective protection, safeguarding and sustainable development of the natural and cultural landscape of Battir through two key objectives:

  a) Implement interventions aiming at achieving an effective safeguard of the cultural landscape, as formulated in the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan” (e.g., conservation of dry-stone architecture, ancient irrigation systems, traditional agricultural practices, historical road network and pathways, etc.);

  b) Establish a Landscape Eco-museum (e.g., promotion of public-private partnerships and facilitation of private responsible entrepreneurship, while protecting and valorising local cultural identities).

The key objectives will be pursued through the following specific purposes:

1. Provide support to local authorities and create the conditions for long-term institutional building;

2. Reinforce technical skills and training local human resources for the management and administration of the Landscape Conservation and Management Plan and the Landscape Eco-museum, in their different components (e.g., urban management, environmental recovery, cultural and agricultural know-how and practices, tourist management, educational activities, etc.);

3. Preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage attached to Palestinian cultural landscapes through research, cataloguing and inventorying of anthropological, historical and environmental resources (e.g., community mapping, census of traditional know-how and human treasures, etc.);

4. Contribute to the empowerment of Battir and the surrounding Palestinian local communities through the promotion of cultural and eco-tourism.

(f) Number of inhabitants and activities within the property

According to the census of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2007), the number of inhabitants within the property matches with the number of inhabitants of Battir village, namely 3,967 inhabitants.
The property extends partially in the territory of the neighbouring village of Husan, where no inhabitants live, being this area an agricultural zone. Main activities within the property are agricultural and residential, with small retail and recreational activities as minor components.

(g) Staffing levels and qualifications

- Office for the Battir Cultural Landscape Plan (Battir Village Council):
  1. Samir Harb (Landscape Planner),
  2. Hassan Muamer (Engineer),
  3. Mohammad Hammash (Architect),

- Battir Landscape Eco-museum (Battir Village Council):
  1. Claudia Cancellotti (Coordinator of the PMSP project)
  2. To be selected (Administrative Assistant)
  3. To be selected (Archivist)
  4. To be selected (Environmental Education Specialist)

(h) Visitor number and facilities

At present it is difficult to assess how many visitors access the property as this kind of data are not available neither at national level (Palestinian Authority, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities) nor at local level (Battir Village Council). However, it is worth to mention that the property is visited on a weekly basis by visitors from all over the West Bank and in particular from the adjacent city of Bethlehem and its environs. Especially during spring, both Governmental and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) schools from the Bethlehem Governorate organize field trips and tours to Battir and its landscape for their students, namely promenades in the wadi, visits to the springs, visits to the maqams (shrines), etc. Moreover, in recent years, and particularly after the Second Intifada, many international travel agencies and tour operators started to include Battir in their packages, resulting in an increasing demand to visit Battir and its pathways (e.g. a professional guide for hiking trails in the Palestinian Hills, under preparation, includes three hiking trails in the area of Battir), but also determining the necessity to prepare the villagers as well as the local authority to face the visitors' flows and ensure control over their territory. To this purpose, the Italian Decentralized Cooperation recently approved a project through the Palestinian Municipalities Support Programme (PMSP), to establish the “Battir Landscape Eco-museum” in order to enhance the existing – poor – visitors' facilities, e.g. upgrading and marking the pathways, organizing rest areas, as well as creating basic accommodation for tourists, e.g. guesthouses in the historic core of the village (see also Gola, A., Harb, S. and Perugini, N. (2010), enclosed as an Annex).

All interventions, designed, implemented and monitored by the Office for the Battir Cultural Landscape Plan, will be realized in accordance with the conservation philosophy of the plan, as stated in the “Criteria and Guidelines for the Safeguarding of Systems, Areas and Sites” of the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan”.


(i) Sources and levels of finance for conservation

After the implementation of the "Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan", funded by the Government of Norway and coordinated by the UNESCO Ramallah Office from early 2008 to date, which was carried out in two phases, notably the "Research and documentation of the tangible and intangible elements of olive cultural landscape in the Palestinian highlands: the villages of Battir and 'Asira el Shamalyia", and the development of the "Conservation and Management Plan", with its set of maps and guidelines, drafted in accordance with the findings of the research, the Battir Village Council was awarded with a two-year project for the establishment of a "Landscape Eco-museum" by the Italian Cooperation, within the framework of its Palestinian Municipalities Support Programme (PMSP). The programme will guarantee an adequate source of finance for landscape protection and enhancement from September 2010 through August 2012, after which period the eco-museum shall ensure its own financial sustainability, through the revenues generated from hospitality, tour guiding and other tourist services, as well as the support to local farmers.

(j) Dangers threatening the property and preventive measures undertaken

Nowadays Palestinian cultural landscape and biodiversity are under threat; several factors are driving to biodiversity loss and irreversible change in landscape integrity/authenticity and land-use. Two kinds of dynamics have affected and are deeply affecting the cultural landscape of Battir:

• The increasing demographic Palestinian pressure over the property and the socio-cultural transformations of the local way of life are more and more threatening the Battir Village Cultural Landscape. The lack of adequate landscape protection and management measures – often indirectly resulting from the geo-political constrictions, but related also to a scarce attention to the necessary environmental and landscape policies – provoked the proliferation of multifaceted threats to the local cultural landscape of Battir, e.g. urban encroachment, dump sites, sewage threatening the availability of freshwater from the several springs of the area, etc. (see Map of Vulnerabilities (Internal factors), in Annex IV.a – 5.B).

• Since 1967, intensive Israeli activities of settlement expansion are threatening the property, the area of Battir and its surrounding villages. The increasing construction of housing units, infrastructures, roads and other various kinds of services for the exclusive use of settlers, has resulted in the progressive enclavisation of both the territorial area and the inhabitants of Battir, severely threatening the integrity of its landscape and the sustainability of its ecological and environmental equilibrium. These substantial historical, spatial and political transformations affected the – and at the same time have been carried through – the landscape, that very landscape that has become one of the core criticities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At the same time, these processes determined a progressive erosion of the traditional relationship between the rural inhabitants of Battir and their cultural spaces, as well as deep socio-economic transformations. Many of the most important cultural landscape elements of the village have become the main victims of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, whose main results at this more local level were: the abandonment of agricultural lands; the reduction of fresh water availability and the increasing dependence on migrants’ remittances (see Map of Vulnerabilities (External factors), in Annex IV.a – 5.C). To further explore this component, see the research paper of Perugini, N. and Harb, S. (2010), of which the abstract is attached as an Annex.
To counter this critical situation, the Battir Village Council is in the process of endorsing the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan”, which was designed to tackle this twofold threat. The Plan is addressing these gaps and seeking to contribute to reverse this trend by (i) paving the way to the creation of new integrated policies through the implementation of its guidelines that should serve as pilot reference models for the protection of landscape and its biodiversity; (ii) fostering the collaboration within local communities, government officials and civil society at large towards the recognition, re-vitalization and duly adaptation to the current circumstances, of the traditional knowledge and practices related to the sustainable use of the landscape and natural resources.

More specifically, the Plan aims at providing the local institutions of the Palestinian Authority with the necessary scientific, analytical and practical tools for the conservation and the safeguarding of the local cultural landscape. The main objective of the Plan is to recreate an equilibrium between the different practices – traditional and modern – related to the cultural landscape. At the same time the Plan is conceived as an instrument for the re-appropriation of the local cultural landscape by its inhabitants, refunclionalizing traditional practices of economic relevance, such as agriculture, and promoting sustainable practices (at both national and international levels) of eco-tourism (to be implemented through the Italian Cooperation PMSP project). These two tracks of landscape protection and safeguarding constitute a potentially decisive tool for tackling the external threats of dispossession produced by the Israeli occupation and for implementing the internal Palestinian process of State-building. Moreover, the planning exercise was accompanied by a community participation approach that resulted in the creation of a Committee of local organizations and citizens (Battir Baladna, “Battir our land”). Since January 2010 the Committee is implementing voluntary-based interventions of cultural landscape safeguarding (i.e. tree plantations, terraces rehabilitations, water spring cleaning, children’s awareness workshops, etc.).

IV. Documentation (in Annexes) (a) Maps:

1. A/1.B Geographical Location Map (Scale 1:500,000) and Environmental Map (Scale 1:100,000);
2. A Map of Site Location (Scale 1:20,000);
2.B Base Map -Topographical Map (Scale 1:5,000);
2.C Geo-political Map (Scale 1:5,000);
2.D Aerial Photograph (Scale 1:5,000);
3. A Map of Geology (Scale 1:5,000);
3.B Map of Hydrographic System (Scale 1:5,000);
3.C Map of Prevalent Land Cover / Land Use (Scale 1:5,000);
4. A Map of the Dry-stone Masonry System (Scale 1:5,000);
4.B Map of the Human Settlement System (Scale 1:5,000);
5. A Map of Natural and Cultural Landmarks (Scale 1:5,000);
5.B Map of Vulnerabilities (Internal factors) (Scale 1:5,000);
5.C Map of Vulnerabilities (External factors) (Scale 1:5,000)
6. A Map of Land Units (Scale 1:5,000);
6.B Map of Land Use / Land Vocation (Scale 1:5,000);
6.C Map of pace of transformations and related risk factors (Scale 1:5,000).
(b) Slides
A set of photographs is enclosed in the attached CD-rom. Photo credits are attached in Annex IV.b.

(c) Documentation on the existing legal protection
Although protection of the property is currently ensured by traditional practices, a “Cultural Heritage Law” is under preparation by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of the Palestinian Authorities. The law includes the protection of cultural landscapes as a key cultural heritage component. The last version of the draft, in English, is attached in Annex IV.c.

(d) Conservation and management plans
The “Criteria and Guidelines for the Safeguarding of Systems, Areas and Sites” of the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan”, the first-of-its-kind tool designed to protect a cultural landscape in the oPt, as well as create a model for other interventions, are attached for easy reference (Annex IV.d).

The set of maps of the “Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan”, which constitutes an integral part of the plan, is enclosed in Annex IV.a.

(e) Inventory of the most important elements of the property
An inventory of the most important elements of the property, also compared with another West Bank village, is contained in the appendices of the research conducted by Cancellotti, Cirino and Harb (2009), herewith attached for easy reference in Annex IV.e. All cultural landscape’s features, such as caves, cliffs, water springs and aqueducts, dry-stone masonry, historic buildings, archaeological sites and features, ancient roads and monumental trees, are mapped by the Battir Landscape Conservation and Management Plan and stored in the server of the Office for the Battir Cultural Landscape Plan - Battir Village Council (cfr. Maps in Annex IV.a).

(f) Address where inventory, records and archives are held
Inventories, records and archives are held in Battir (see Annex IV.f).

(g) Bibliography
See Select Bibliography, in Annex IV.g.
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF SOUTHERN JERUSALEM, BATTIR (PALESTINE) NO 1492

Official name as proposed by the State Party
Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines - Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

Location
Palestine
Bethlehem Governorate
Bethlehem Western Rural Areas

Emergency Nomination
The nomination was submitted by the State Party as an Emergency Nomination for the following reasons:

• The landscape has become vulnerable under the impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations that may bring irreversible damage to its authenticity and integrity;
• A plan to start the construction of a separation Wall could cut off farmers from fields they have cultivated for centuries.

In accordance with Operational Guidelines, paragraph 161, such nominations will be processed on an emergency basis, and their examination included in the agenda of the next Committee session, if:

• The property is in Danger, as a result of having suffered damage or facing serious and specific dangers from natural events or human activities, which would constitute an emergency situation;
• An immediate decision by the Committee is necessary to ensure its safeguarding;
• According to the report of the relevant Advisory Bodies, the property may unquestionably justify Outstanding Universal Value.

Accordingly, ICOMOS has set out in this report assessment of whether the property may be said to unquestionably justify OUV, whether it has suffered or is facing serious danger which constitutes an emergency situation, and whether an immediate decision by the Committee is necessary to ensure its safeguarding.

Brief description
The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir is nominated as a first site for a wider serial nomination of Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines.

The Battir landscape of gentle rolling hills encompass a series of agricultural valleys, widian, characterised by stone terraces, some irrigated for the production of vegetables, other drier ones planted with vines and olive trees, and yet others now abandoned.

Located some seven kilometres southwest of Jerusalem in the central highlands between Nablus in the north and Hebron in the south, the Battir landscape lies west of the mountain range that runs north to south parallel to the Mediterranean coast.
The nominated valleys encircle the village of Battir which is in the buffer zone. Near the village, springs have been channelled to provide irrigation, while away from the village are found considerable numbers of agricultural watch-towers known as manatir.

Category of property
In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a site.

In terms of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (July 2013) paragraph 47, it is also a cultural landscape.

1 BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List
25 May 2012

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination
None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre
30 January 2014

Background
This is a new nomination.

Consultations
ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committees on Cultural Landscapes and Archaeological Heritage Management and several independent experts.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party
On 20 February 2014, in order to update the information in the nomination dossier, ICOMOS requested the State Party to provide supplementary information on the following:

- Impact of possible World Heritage inscription
- Boundaries
- History
- Comparative Analysis
- Sustaining the cultural landscape

The State Party responded on 21 March 2014 and details of this response are included in this report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
May 2014

2 THE PROPERTY

Description
The property is located in the central highlands of Palestine, southwest of Jerusalem. A series of terraced agricultural valleys, widian, extend from Wadi AlMakhrour, west of Beit Jala, to the village of Husan, and encircle the village of Battir.
Since the 12th century, Battir has been one of the main producers of vegetables for the central part of Palestine.

On the maps provided in the nomination dossier, three areas are shown to relate to the nomination: the area of the nominated property, the area of the buffer zone and a third area of irrigated fields that belong to the people of Battir.

The information provided in the nomination dossier is quite general and lacks specific information on the physical aspects of the landscape. Also some aspects such as intangible associations and details of sociocultural systems have been omitted. This makes a detailed description of its assets difficult. As the village is outside the nominated area, there is also a lack of focus on the interaction between people and the landscape.

The nomination dossier needs augmenting to allow a fuller understanding of the way the landscape has developed, precisely what survives, how it functions and how it is perceived.

**Terraces**

Dry-stone terrace walls in Battir are the predominant characteristic of the whole landscape, and extend to around 554,000 metres. All are constructed of dry stone. Some are relict terraces where the lack of maintenance has led to their collapse and subsequent abandonment.

In terms of use, there are two types of terraces: those that are irrigated, and these are mainly around the village, and those that are dry and these are further away from the village.

All the irrigated terraces are fully functioning, mainly worked by women, and provide vegetable and fruit for the farmers. In contrast, 60% of the dry terraces are not cultivated and in various states of abandonment. Those that are cultivated mainly by men host olive trees and a few vines.

One of the key issue with this nomination is an area of irrigated fields that are owned by the people of Battir covering an area of 133.23 hectares and which are shown on the map of the nominated property.

**Irrigation**

Near the village of Battir is a network of irrigation channels fed from ten underground springs. The water is collected in a retaining pool known as the Roman pool, and then shared equally between the eight families of the villages, every eight days, by a traditional, equitable system using a stick to measure the depth of the pool. The distribution of the shares among the family members also rotates in order to avoid differences.

The irrigated fields are cultivated with fruit trees, such as almonds, apricots, and figs, and vegetables, mostly now for subsistence, although the famous Battirí aubergine attracts buyers from outside the area. Battir used to be the garden for Jerusalem, before it was cut off from this market in 1967.
Olive tree cultivation
The un-irrigated terraces that form the majority are planted with olive trees and vines. Although some olive trees are said to be ancient, or even Roman, most may not be as old as claimed. The term Roman might refer to the method and continuity of the cultivation. Remains of ‘ancient’ stone olive presses, which could date back several centuries, testify to the continuity of this crop.

During the harvest season from October to November, traditionally the whole family would leave their houses in the village, and move to the agricultural watchtowers (manatir) in the hills. Today harvesting is still a family occupation but with the families augmented with people brought in from the towns.

Vines are no longer cultivated on as large a scale as they once were and appear to be more a testimony to the past than a real income for the population.

The terraces were traditionally shaded by Palestine oaks. Most of these appear to have been over cut. On the more distant slopes from the village are spruce and pine trees, planted during the British occupation, and now expanding to colonise abandoned terraces.

Vernacular buildings
The main manifestations of vernacular buildings within the property are the stone watchtowers, manatir. These were built for the protection of farm land away from the village. Around 230 watchtowers have been documented in the property of varying shapes and sizes, built in both dressed and rubble stone. Some were formerly used by farm labourers employed by wealthy landlords, while many others were inhabited during the harvest season as temporary houses. Most are now unused and in various stages of conservation and repair, with a few little more than ruins.

Although it is stated that many agricultural watchtowers are presumed to have existed from late prehistory into the early historical periods (the 9th to the 4th millennia BC), modern archaeological and survey work has not substantiated that general link.

A few limekilns survive in the property, constructed to burn the local limestone for use as building mortar. All are now abandoned.

The remaining vernacular buildings are in the old part of Battir village and within the proposed buffer zone. The village has grown rapidly in recent decades and is now surrounded by a ‘sprawl town’ and many older houses have been rebuilt or extensively altered. The State Party acknowledges that the recent growth impacts negatively on the visual continuity of the landscape. They do also acknowledge though the importance of the older village and state that once a conservation and management plan has been drawn up for it, it could perhaps be considered as an extension.

History and development
A few archaeological excavations and surveys have revealed slight remains related to the Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, while pottery shards have been dated to the late Iron Age, the Persian Period and the Hellenistic Period.

During the Roman period, Battir was located along the main road connecting the port city of Gaza with Jerusalem, although the village was in a slightly different location from that of present day Battir. Remains of a fortification wall in Khirbet Al-Yahoud have been found, the construction and shape of which appear to date back to the Roman Period.
In 2007, remains of a human settlement, including some agricultural tools, were found dating from the Caliphate Period 636 AD to 661 AD. This excavation also suggested that the landscape had been used continually since that date.

In the Ottoman period there is a written record that mentions farmers growing wheat and barley.

The State Party acknowledges that further research and study is needed not only for the Battir landscape but also more widely for other Palestinian landscapes.

It is the more recent history that has dramatically reshaped the landscape. Under the British mandate, 1917 to 1948 Battir became the last stop along the Jaffa - Jerusalem railway, which led to close economic ties with Jerusalem.

Then under the Jordanian mandate and the Rhodes Armistice Agreements of 1949, Battir was cut off from Jerusalem (along the line of the railway track) that separated Israel from the West Bank.

The name West Bank refers to land west of the River Jordan.

3 JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Comparative analysis

The brief comparative analysis only compares the property to four already inscribed properties, Cultural Landscape of the Serra de Tramuntana, Spain, the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy, Indonesia, the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, the Philippines, and the Cultural Sites of Al Ain (Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas), UAE.

Terraced landscapes are found in most parts of the world and the rationale for the choice of these four properties is not set out.

The analysis concludes by observing that The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir is considered unique in three major aspects: first, that the landscape depends on cultivating a variety of crops within its manmade dry-stone terraces; second, is the distinctive architecture of the dry-stone agricultural watchtowers, built for protection of the terraces; and third, is the uniqueness and survival of the tradition of using a democratic irrigation method.

The attributes of the Battir landscape – agricultural terraces, the use of spring fed irrigation and the presence of watch towers are in fact not unique but rather widespread around the Mediterranean Sea (and the State Party does acknowledge that the irrigation system of Battir is part of this wider Mediterranean system). Especially notable examples are found for instance in Greece, Italy, Spain and the Canary islands as well as in Syria and Lebanon. Terraced landscapes have recently attracted academic interest for their biodiversity as well as cultural interest and extensive papers have been produced.

Also comparatively well studied are the watch towers which are prevalent in many countries around the Mediterranean. The ones around Battir appear to be similar to those on other areas of Palestine.

What is missing from the comparative analysis are comparisons between the Battir landscape and the many other terraced landscapes of the Eastern and wider Mediterranean area, and also between Battir...
and other landscapes of Palestine, particularly those of the Judean Hills. Currently there is thus very little basis for determining why the Battir terraced landscape should be considered exceptional in the Mediterranean context or even in the Eastern Mediterranean context. Battir might be exceptional within Palestine, although its relationship to other terraced landscapes of the Judean hills need justifying, but what needs to be demonstrated is how its exceptionality extends beyond national boundaries.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis currently does not justify consideration of this property for the World Heritage List and needs amplifying.

**Justification of Outstanding Universal Value**

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The terraces bear witness to thousands of years of human activity;
- The continuous settlements around springs from at least the Bronze Age (over 4,000 years);
- Clear evidence of settlement over thousands of years;
- The terraces, irrigation system, and pools were an important milestone in agricultural activity of the area and have been in continuous use since Roman times;
- Battir was on the Roman route from Gaza to Jerusalem;
- Olive trees are part of Palestinian identity.

ICOMOS considers that although it has been shown that there were a few pre-historic settlements in the vicinity of the property, that the name Battir might be associated with the biblical village of Bethar, that a Roman road ran near the property and that the current Battir could have emerged during the Ottoman period, the idea of a continuous and persistent settlement of these valleys cannot be sustained.

The terraces might have ancient origins but these have yet to be proved, and on the basis of current knowledge, it cannot be said that they have persisted since Roman times. There is some evidence for Roman terraces and water management techniques in the land of the former Roman Empire but the majority of the larger-scale activities appear to have fallen out of use after the demise of the Empire. Some lay abandoned such as in Syria, while others were partially revised in the 7th-8th centuries. It was not until around the 12th century that water management appears to have been actively reorganised.

The situation in and around Battir is unclear. Without further survey and research it remains unknown whether the settlement of Battir and its associated terraces and water management system have persisted for centuries, or have been largely developed in the past few centuries.

Although the justification for OUV concentrates on the historical importance of the property, the comparative analysis focuses on considering the Battir landscape as exceptional for its current form; this physical exceptionality has also not been demonstrated.

As stated above, the Battir cultural landscape might be exceptional within Palestine and a landscape that deserves protection for its national value, but what has not been demonstrated is how it might be considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value.
**Integrity and authenticity**

**Integrity**
In terms of the boundaries, integrity is compromised through the exclusion of Battir village from the nominated area. The village is where farmers live and it thus contributes to the overall cultural coherence of the property. Perhaps more fundamentally the integrity of the overall landscape is compromised by the fact that a sizable proportion of the lower irrigated fields are not included in the nominated area.

Although the nomination asserts that local farmers still use traditional agricultural practices, the vulnerabilities of this system are acknowledged, notwithstanding the commitment of the local community. The external factors impacting on these traditional practices are the potential construction of the separation Wall/Fence and settlements, the implementation of plans that would contribute to preserving the property, such as sewage and water network that would prevent the loss and contamination of the spring water, and of control of development around the village. These factors threaten, both directly and indirectly, the sustainability and integrity of this cultural landscape.

**Authenticity**
The nomination dossier acknowledges the impact of socio-cultural and geo-political changes on the authenticity of the property. These relate to constraints in repairing physical features of the landscape, the decline in the number of farmers, and the limited market for produce. Although the families continue with traditional irrigation practices in the lower terraces, the higher dry terraces are threatened by increasing neglect and afforestation. The construction of the Fence could impact further on the ability of farmers to continue farming their lands and thus on the overall sustainability and authenticity of the cultural systems reflected in the landscape.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have not currently been met and both are currently highly vulnerable.

**Criteria under which inscription is proposed**
The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (iv) and (v).

**Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;**

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the property is an outstanding example of a landscape that illustrates the development of human settlements near water sources. The village of Battir, which developed on the outskirts of this cultural landscape, and was inhabited by farmers who worked and still work the land, attests to the sustainability of this system and to its continuation for the past 4,000 years. A system of irrigation permitted the development of agricultural terraces in a very steep mountainous landscape fed by a complex irrigation system that is managed by the eight main families inhabiting the village. The methods used to construct the terraces illustrate significant stages in human history, and the ancient system of canals, still in use today, dates back to ancient times.
ICOMOS considers that the development of settlement near water sources is an almost universal phenomenon and the choice of the site of Battir village does not appear to be outstanding. Although the nomination dossier states that there is a very long association between people and the environment in and around Battir, the evidence for continuous settlement over 4,000 years has not been put forward. Nor has the ancient history of the terraces and the irrigation system been confirmed by archaeology or documentation. The terraces and their associated irrigation system are of a type that is widespread around the Mediterranean basin. Much more research and analysis would be needed if they were to be considered exceptional in wider than a Palestinian context.

ICOMOS does not consider that this criterion has been met.

**Criterion (v): be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;**

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the strategic location of the property and the availability of springs were two major factors that attracted people to settle in the area and adapted its steep landscape into arable land.

Since the 12th century, Battir has been one of the main producers of vegetable products for the central part of Palestine. The property is an outstanding example of traditional land use, which is representative of thousands of years of culture and human interaction with the environment.

This human-made landscape has become vulnerable under the impact of socio-cultural and geopolitical transformations that may cause irreversible damage. The agricultural practices that were used to create this living landscape embody one of the oldest farming methods known to humankind and are an important source of livelihood for local communities.

As set out in relation to criterion (iv), ICOMOS considers that the thousands of years of human interaction with the environment has not been demonstrated other than in general way. Many landscapes around the world have such time depth, but not necessarily continuous development or the persistence of traditions. What is needed for the Battir landscape is a much clearer understanding of the way it has developed and particularly the chronological development of its terracing and irrigation system. At the same time a more detailed comparative analysis is needed to allow the Battir landscape to be understood in relation to other similar landscapes around the Mediterranean, in order to ascertain whether it might be seen as exceptional in a wider than Palestinian context.

Although the Battir landscape is vulnerable, that on its own is not sufficient to satisfy this criterion.

ICOMOS does not consider that this criterion has been met.

**Conclusion on Outstanding Universal Value**

ICOMOS does not consider that the Cultural Landscape of Battir can be said to unquestionably justify OUV.
4 PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Protection and management system

The focus of the nomination dossier has been to set out a case for the impact of the Fence in visual terms and on the management of the irrigated fields. The implication is that if these threats are removed, the property would be able to carry on as before.

The nomination dossier provides very little information on management and protection of the cultural landscape. In terms of protection, it appears that within the nominated property only archaeological sites and the ruins of human settlements are provided with legal protection. The dossier acknowledges that 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.

There is no management plan for the property and no management system is outlined. A Battir Conservation and Management Plan is being developed. An outline is included in the nomination dossier. This sets out clearly necessary aims and policies that are needed to strengthen community engagement promote pro-active management and optimise opportunities for sustainable development. The Plan will however not be completed within the next few months.

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The nominated area does not include all fields that are part of the irrigation system focused on Battir. This has profound implications for the integrity of the property and for its manageability.

The buffer zone is primarily to the north, north-west, east, south and western sides of the property. It extends to the village of Al-Walaja to the northeast, the towns of Beit Jala and Al-Khader to the east, and the village of Husan to the south. To the north-east of the property, there is a ten metre wide strip. As well as the village of Battir, the buffer zone consists in part of abandoned terraces with watch towers, and in part of terraces still in agricultural use.

The buffer zone is limited in terms of its protection as it does not include a key area exposed to the risk of establishment of a large settlement on the nearby hills of Al-Walajeh. The rational for the buffer zone delineation is not clear, nor the protective effect that it might have.

5 EMERGENCY THREATS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

The State Party puts forward two emergency threats:

- The landscape has become vulnerable under the impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations that may bring irreversible damage to its authenticity and integrity,
- A plan to start the construction of a separation Wall could cut off farmers from fields they have cultivated for centuries.

Emergency threats

Proposed construction of a separation Fence (Wall)

The Battir cultural landscape and the way it functions has been impacted upon over the past 65 years by external geo-political forces that have led to divisions and regulatory areas being imposed upon it that bear little relation to its socio-cultural units.
The main potential threat to the property is a plan by Israeli authorities to construct a physical barrier. This would prohibit access by Battir farmers to their lands beyond the railway line.

Whether the portion of the barrier that would cut off Battir lands will be constructed is still being debated by the Israeli High Court.

In December 2012, the Battir villages petitioned the Israeli High Court, with the support of the Israel National Parks and Friends of the Earth Middle East, to have the barrier re-routed beyond their land. The Israeli National Parks stated that ‘the building of the fence (separation barrier) as currently proposed by the respondents (a 3.5 metre high bolstered metal fence along a 500 metre segment) does not adequately balance, as required, the range of conflicting interests, and does not adequately address the wide and irreversible damage that will be caused to the natural landscape, and heritage values that exist in the area’.

A temporary injunction was issued in May 2013 to stop the barrier from proceeding. A further Court hearing took place on 29th January 2014, when it was confirmed that the barrier would be a Fence rather than a Wall. The Court requested further clarification from the Israeli Railways and the Ministry of Transport, including whether gated access for farmers could be provided. The extra information was requested by 27th March 2014. At the time of writing, a final decision by the Court remains pending.

If the barrier were to be constructed it could have physical impact beyond the line of the Fence on the railway tracks, as the security zone on either side could mean that the land appropriated extended to between 50 and 90 metres in width. Its construction might also impact severely on natural water drainage as well as on the traditional irrigation channels.

According to the State Party, experts remain divided as to whether the Fence and its associated security zones could be constructed without destroying terraces and in a way that allowed the flow of irrigation water to pass underneath. Even if both of these were possible, it is difficult to see how farmers would be allowed the flexible access necessary to moderate their water supplies in land on the Israeli side of the Fence.

**Proposed construction of new Israeli settlements**

High-rise Israeli settlements have been constructed over the crest of the surrounding hills in some specific areas, such as beyond the south-east of the buffer zone. The potential impact is not possible to assess.

**Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political change**

In the nomination dossier the State Party acknowledges that the cultural landscape has already become vulnerable under the impact of socio-cultural and geopolitical change that may bring irreversible damage to its authenticity and integrity.

These changes are multi-faceted but relate to the movement of people to the towns as well as the much restricted market for agricultural produce, and to the lack of repair and maintenance of the terraces.
Other threats

Afforestation
As a result of the abandonment of cultivation terraces and the loss of dry stone walls, spruce and pine trees species have begun to colonise some of the slopes in the property. If this process continues uncontrolled, it will severely impact on the character of the property, with an open terraced landscape being transformed into one of trees and associated scrub.

The State Party claims they are not allowed to cultivate these lands and there is the concomitant implication that these lands could be confiscated.

If confirmed, a combination of extended tree cover and confiscated lands would have an immense, severe and probably irreversible impact on the cultural landscape in visual and socio-economic terms. The loss of terraces could hasten erosion and also encourage the loss of native species such as the Palestine oak (Quercus calliprinos).

Lack of sewage system
No sewage system exists and it is stated that the Palestinians are not allowed to construct one. The current system is based on septic tanks and/or cesspits and there are concerns that these could in the future pollute the ground water if untreated sewage flows unchecked into the wadis.

Solid Waste Management
There is no efficient solid waste management in the property with the result that there are waste dumps near the agricultural terraces. However there is a new plan for solid waste management for the whole of the Bethlehem Governorate with a new landfill site at Al-Maniya that is already working.

Loss of water
Water for domestic use is being lost due to lack of maintenance. The State Party claims that they have been denied authorisation to build new reservoirs and a whole new system for domestic use.

Impact of threats
The construction of a separation Fence could radically impact on the overall morphology of the Battir landscape in visual terms and also potentially on hydrology, irrigation and the livelihoods of the farming community.

At the present time no decision has been made on whether the Fence will be constructed along the line of the railway and if so whether access for farmers and water necessary to irrigate fields on the Israeli side of the Fence will be allowed.

Furthermore no timetable is known for when a decision might be made.

In visual terms, a 3.5 metre high fence with wire above would create a highly visible and highly damaging divide across the valley landscape. ICOMOS considers that although the visual impact of the fence would be highly negative, it might be reversed with the removal of the structure at some point in the future, but whether or not this was possible without irreversible damage would depend on the methods of construction and the extent of the interventions to the terraces.
However socio-economic impacts might not be reversible. If the Fence did not allow adequate access for farmers and water, it could also impact severely on farmers’ livelihoods through the loss of part of their irrigated land and would thus exacerbate the already vulnerable subsistence farming in the nominated area (see below). The landscape of fields on the Israeli side of the Fence will only survive as an irrigated terraced landscape, if there is sufficient permeability in the Fence to allow for farmers and water to access the fields to allow for control of water. The contention is made in the nomination dossier that the loss of the irrigated fields beyond the Fence could mean that farmers no longer had a sustainable agricultural unit on the Palestinian side. It must be recalled however that the land beyond the Fence is not within Palestine and thus not part of the nominated property.

The Fence is not the only threat to the property. There are three other threats, all inter-related: shrinking population of farmers, abandonment of terraces and associated colonisation by non-indigenous tree species, as well as potential pollution of water supplies.

Although the absence of a Fence, or its re-alignment beyond the irrigated fields in the valley, or a Fence with satisfactory access for farmers would allow farmers to continue to farm their irrigated fields, there remains a great threat to the sustainability of the rest of the terraced landscape, particularly the dry terraces.

Many hectares of dry terraces have been abandoned or are only lightly farmed. Once cultivation ceases, repair of the terraces also ceases and erosion can set in quickly. Good soil gets washed out and trees and scrub begin to colonise the uncultivated land. Although there have been projects to revive terraces and repair broken down walls, the extent of terraces – some 500 km – within the nominated property means that the task of keeping the terraces farmed is far beyond the resources of the eight families who now farm the area. There is also the apparent further potential threat of confiscation of plots that are not farmed over a 3-4 year period under an Absentee Law.

ICOMOS considers that the robustness of the cultural landscape to respond to these threats is currently low. Although the eight farming families are highly committed to their landscape they are not working within a strong supportive framework. There is no adequate legal protection, insufficient support from national government, no subsidies for the revival of traditional practices, and inadequate markets for extra production. (See below for further details) What the nomination dossier does not set out at all clearly is how the robustness of the traditional systems and practices could be strengthened.

Although the traditional village of Battir is an integral part of the cultural landscape, it has been overwhelmed by new development and is now no longer just a farming community. Its size is now putting a strain on services such as the water supply and sewage systems which cannot be improved, and which could easily impair the water supplies on which the farming system depends. This disjunction between the growth of the non-farming community and the decline of the farming community needs to be addressed urgently if the traditional irrigation system is to survive.

**Potential Emergency**

The Fence would create a highly undesirable visual intrusion into the landscape, albeit one that might be reversed at some point in the future if its construction did not irreversibly impact on the terraces of the nominated area.
If permission is given for a Fence along the railway with no adequate passage for farmers and water, then the irrigated fields on the Israeli side of the Fence would probably be abandoned. This could have a highly negative impact on the livelihood of the eight farming families as they might not have sufficient irrigated fields on the Palestinian side for a sustainable livelihood.

Even without the issue of the Fence, there are growing threats to the dry terraces in the property from a range of less dramatic causes but with equally serious implications related to abandonment of farmland and afforestation, which over time could become dramatic and irreversible.

These threats are potential dangers to the property. The issue is whether these dangers might be considered as an emergency for which a decision by the Committee would ensure its safeguarding.

The Fence would be constructed outside the nominated property and would impact on land that is also outside the nominated property.

Many cultural landscapes extend across political boundaries and it is not always possible to protect an entire geo-cultural landscape unless there is a transnational nomination. This nomination is only for land currently within Palestinian territory.

The definition of an emergency in the nominated area could not in ICOMOS's view allow the World Heritage Committee to take actions that might influence the actions of a State Party not associated with the property.

Accordingly ICOMOS questions whether a decision of the Committee could ensure the safeguarding of the property in terms of mitigating the impact of the Fence.

As for ways of mitigating longer term threats associated with abandonment and afforestation, these are also not susceptible to immediate safeguarding by a decision of the Committee, but need sustained interventions within a framework of a fully developed Management Plan.

### Conclusion on Emergency

ICOMOS does not consider that the Dangers facing the property can be considered to constitute an Emergency situation for which a decision by the Committee is necessary for its safeguarding.

#### 6 CONCLUSIONS

In response to the requirements of Emergency Nominations as set out in Operational Guidelines, paragraph 161, ICOMOS has considered whether:

- The property is in Danger, as a result of having suffered damage or facing serious and specific dangers from natural events or human activities, which would constitute an emergency situation;
- An immediate decision by the Committee is necessary to ensure its safeguarding;
- According to the report of the relevant Advisory Bodies, the property may unquestionably justify Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS's conclusions are as follows.

A case has not been made for the property unquestionably justifying Outstanding Universal Value. In the absence of detailed survey, research and comparative analysis, a case has not been made for the property having greater than national value.
The main potential threats to the property are the construction of a Fence, and the abandonment of terraces and afforestation. ICOMOS considers that these threats do constitute potential dangers to the cultural value of the property.

However, as the threat of construction of a Fence arises outside the nominated area, ICOMOS questions whether the potential danger arising from the visual and socio-economic impacts of the Fence constitutes an Emergency as ICOMOS considers an immediate decision by the World Heritage Committee might not ensure its safeguarding through forestalling such a threat or reversing it, if it became a reality.

The nominated property does not only face this one threat: it is also highly vulnerable to the abandonment of terraces and the spread of afforestation, as well as to a wide range of socio-economic factors and political constraints. These threats could also in time endanger the property.

ICOMOS also considers that these longer term threats cannot be considered to constitute an emergency for which a decision of the World Heritage Committee could have an immediate impact to ensure the safeguarding of the property. The reversal of the conditions that support these negative changes will only be achieved through sustained interventions at a local level, through an active management plan and with the full engagement of local communities, and local and national authorities.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations with respect to inscription
ICOMOS does not consider that the present nomination of Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine, is unquestionably of Outstanding Universal Value; and, while several threats have been identified for this property, ICOMOS has not found that it faces an emergency for which an immediate decision by the World Heritage Committee could ensure its safeguarding.
Agricultural watchtowers

Terraced landscape
Remains of ‘ancient’ stone olive presses

Retaining pool known as the Roman pool
ANNEX 4

BATTIR AS “AN ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANT ECO-SYSTEM”

PREPARED BY EQA
BATTIR AS “AN ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANT ECO-SYSTEM”

The availability of water springs and resources in the area enriches the site with biodiversity resources, so that a complex of Fauna and flora genetic resources are inhabited the area since the ancient decades. But the transformation of the natural landscape to traditional agricultural terraces and water canals through history affect the existence of many flora species. The habitat originally classified as a Quercus calliprinus woodland on limestone, which is characterized by the domination of the oak species in companion with the Pistacia species, Arbutus andrachne, Crataegus aronia and Rhamnus palaestina species, in addition, to many other tree species and other a companioned shrubs and perennials.

TOPOGRAPHY:
The topography and geomorphology of the territory represent important landscape characterizing elements, which had a fundamental influence on the processes of adaptation and transformation of the territories into specific typologies of historical landscapes, at the visual, ecologic and agricultural levels. The territory of Battir, located along the deep, long Valley connecting Beit Jala to Jerusalem (Wadi Makhrour), is characterized by the rugged topography of the valley, and by the steep gradient of most of its slopes. moving from the southern part to the northern part of the village, the elevation drops sharply from about 900 m to about 500 m above sea level. The jagged profile and the peculiar configuration of the territory present peculiar geological formations and are of impressive scenic value. Hilltops often host plateaus that offer vast panoramic views on the village and on the valley.

GEOLOGY:
The geology of Battir and its immediate surrounding is composed of sedimentary carbonate rocks of Albian, Cenomanian and Holocene ages. The oldest formation (Albian), is exposed mainly west of the study area, the younger formations of Holocene age, which composed of alluvial deposits cover the wadi floors of the study area.

Albian Upper Beit Kahil Formation:
This formation is regarded as the upper part of the upper Albian. It has two sub formations that are; Soreq and Kesalon. The lower part of this formation (Soreq) consists of porous dolomite, marly dolomite, marl and at times some chert. The occurrence of the marl in this formation reduces its water bearing capability. On the other hand, the upper part of this formation (Kesalon) mainly consists of brittle dolomite and brittle limestone rich in fossils.

Cenomanian - Yatta Formation:
The Lower Cenomanian Yatta Formation (Beit Meir and Moza formations in Israeli literature) overlies the Upper Beit Kahil Formation. Beit Meir, is composed of limestone, chalky limestone, dolomite, marl and greenish clay at the bottom. Moza is composed of yellowish marly limestone with traces of greenish marl at the bottom.

Yatta Formation, in general act as an aquiclude and separate the Cenomanian aquifer from the Albian aquifer underlying it. The dolomite of the upper part of Beit Meir shows some water bearing nature (Guttmann and Gotlieb 1996). Sometimes the limestone near the top, officiates as a local perched aquifer, which explains why a few springs emerge between the contact of the Yatta Formation with the Hebron Formation (Rofe and Raffety 1963).
Cenomanian - Hebron Formation:
The Middle Cenomanian Hebron Formation, Aminadav in the Israeli terminology, is composed of brittle karstified gray dolomite, dolomitic limestone and gray limestone. At its base it is formed of hard dolomite and dolomitic limestone with some silicification. The lithology is uniform since dolomite and dolomitic limestone are found throughout the sequence of Hebron Formation. The porosity of this Formation is mainly secondary because the rocks are well jointed and karstified. The Hebron Formation without doubt is the most important aquifer within the West Bank.

Quaternary:
Alluvial formations are Holocene age, consisting of unconsolidated, laminated marls, clay, silt, gravel and conglomerate. The deposits of this formation cover the floor of the wadi in the study area.

Figure 1. Geologic map of Battir village
SOIL:
In the Central Highlands region, the main soil type is Terra Rossa. This is the most typical soil in the Battir area and is the product of the Mediterranean climate and soil formation on hard limestone. Its soil reaction is generally neutral to moderately alkaline; and it has a high content of soluble salts. Both the high iron content and the low organic matter are responsible for the red colour. They are mainly of loamy texture.
In addition to the Terra Rossa soils, mountain marl soils and alluvial soils are also present in the area. Mountain marl soils are formed from the chalky marls of Senonian and Eocene age; they are covered with Light Rendzina soils. These soils are well distinguished from the Terra Rossa as far as the vegetative cover is concerned. They are not very fertile because of their poor water holding capacity and the high lime content.
In the Battir area, the main soil constraint is erosion in uncultivated hills. Terracing the moderately steep hills with considerable amount of soil is the best possible solution to this problem.

BATTIR SPRINGS:
Battir village is rich with the historical springs. There are five main water springs in the village which are Ein Balad, Ein Jame’, Ein Al Baseen, Ein ‘Amdan, and Ein abu Hareth springs. The springs that are still very productive until now are Ein Balad (figure6) and Ein Jame’ springs. In the past; these two springs were considered the main springs in the village where the citizens primarily depend on them as the main source of water for domestic and agricultural uses. The water from these springs is collected in two pools (figure5) and transferred through a system of irrigation canals (figure7) to irrigate the surrounding man-made dry-stone terraces. The water from these two fountains and the irrigation system, including the canals and pools, are public property, and are managed by Battir’s eight main families. The other three springs are used for agricultural purposes only as they are located in the agricultural areas away from the households.

Hydrogeology and spring discharge:
Ein El Balad and Jami springs are emerging from perched aquifers where groundwater accumulate over relatively impermeable layers. These springs are classified as contact springs discharging at the contact between the permeable and impermeable formations. The permeable formation consists of limestone or dolomite (figure8), where karst system is often developed, through which the springs emerge. Ein El Balad spring discharging at the contact between Hebron (Aminadave) and Upper Yatta (Moza) formations, whereas al Jami spring discharging at the contact between upper part of Upper Beit Kahil (Kesalon) and lower part of Upper Beit Kahil (Soreq) formations (figure4).

Spring discharge increase during the winter and decrease during the period from summer to middle autumn. Average discharge of Ein Balad spring (during the period from 2009 to 2016) reaches 211 m³ per day, the maximum value of 511 m³/day was measured in February 2013, and the minimum value of 87 m³/day was measured in October 2011 and 2016 (figure2). This spring has the highest discharge rate among other existing springs.

Al Jame’ spring is another historical spring that irrigates more than 200 donums. It also irrigates some of the land parcels inside the Green line. The average discharge of this spring (during the period from 2009 to 2016) is around 128 m³/day, the maximum value of 459.6 m³/day was measured in May 2010, while the minimum value of 39.744 m³/day was measured in October 2014 (figure3).
Irrigation system:
The traditional irrigation system continues to be used by the inhabitants of Battir, and still meets the needs of the farmers, even though it is an ancient system. According to the farmers themselves, the system satisfies their needs and it continues to be implemented without any modifications. It is simple and easy and it has being passed down from father to son from generation to generation.

The peoples have used the traditional irrigation system, which continues to be used today of Battir for centuries, presumably all the way back to Roman times. The ancient rock-hewn canals are still in use and stand out in the distinctively built terraces. This water distribution system that has been used for millennia depends on dividing the water that is collected in a retaining pool during the night in equal portions among the local families and their individual members.

Battir has eight families that benefit from the system, and each family has the right to use the water for one full day on an eight-day rotation.

This unique water system is the result of an ancient democratic distribution system that delivers water to the terraced agricultural land based on a simple mathematical calculation and a clear time managed rotation scheme. The system is described by the people as just and fair, and satisfies the needs of the landowners. These two facts have contributed to its sustainability throughout the years.
Figure 4. A stratigraphic columnar section shows aquifers and aquitards and demonstrating natural horizons of perched aquifers.

Figure 5. Collection Pond

Figure 6. Ein El Balad spring
Biodiversity of Battir Heritage Landscape Property:

Biodiversity of Flora:
The area is very rich in many native species of flora because of the availability of water resources all the year around. These species include many of the endangered and rare ones, and others are common, in addition, some invasive alien species also established in the area. The available species includes:

- **The trees:** (Ceratonia Siliqua, Populus euphratica, Pistacia palaestina, Quercus calliprinos, Arbutus andrachne, Crataegus aronia, Rhamnus palaestina, Nerium oleander)
- **Shrubs:** (Sambucus nigra, Calycotome villosa, Capparis spinosa, Dittrichia viscosa, Thynna spicata, Sarcopoterium spinosum, Sloanum nigrum, Phragmites australis)
- **Perennials and Annuals:** (Hyoscyamus aureus, Ecbalium elaterium, Parietaria officinalis, Adiantum capillus-veneris, Orobancha egyptiaca, Ballota saxatella, Eryngium cicutum, Plantago major, Conyza bonarensis, Conyza Canadensis, Amaanthus retroflexus, Amaanthus biltoidis, malva sylvestris, Cynodon dactylodon, Urtica pilolifera, Arum palaestinum, Umbilicus intermedium, Convolvus arvensis, Silphium marianum, Calendula arvensis, Marrubium vulgare, Silene vulgaris, Sonchus oleraces, Portulaca oleracia, Polygonum spp., Phagnalon rupestre, Anagalis arvensis aquatica, Podonosma orientalis, Rubus fruticosus, Sinapis arvensis)

Biodiversity of Fauna:

**Birds:**

- Dendrocopos syriacus (Syrian woodpecker)
- Garrulus glandarius (Eurasian Jay)
- Cinnys osea (Palestine sunbird)
- Pychnotus xanthopygos (White-spectacled Bulbul)
- Columba livia (Rock Dove)
- Sylvia melanocephala (Sardinian Warbler)
- Pernis apivorus (European honey buzzard)
- Halcyon smyrnensis (White-throated Kingfisher)
- Fringilla coelebs (Common Chaffinch)
- Passer domesticus (House sparrow)
- Turdus merula (Common Blackbird)
- (Bubo bubo) Eurasian Eagle-owl
- Motacilla albaus (White Wagtail)
- Saxicola torquata (Stonechat)
- Prinia gracilis (Graceful Prinia)

**Mammals:**
Mammals are distributed in the area mainly in the surroundings of the site and the forests close to the area. The main mammals of the area includes:
- Gazella gazelle (mountain gazelle)
- Hyaena hyaena syriaca (Striped Hyaena)
- Meles meles (European Honey badger)
- Canis lupus arabs (wolf)
- Vulpes vulpes (red fox)
- Erinaceus europaeus (European Hedgehog)
- Hystrix indica (Porcupine)
- Vormela peregusna (Marbbeld Polecat)
- Felis silvestris (Wild cat)
- Lepus capensis (Arabian hare)

**Amphibians:**
1- European green toad (Pseudepidalea variabilis)
2- Leavant Green Frog (Pelophylax bedriagae)

**Reptiles:**
1- Mediterranean Spur-Thighed Tortoise (Testudo graeca)
2- Western Caspian Turtle (Mauremys rivulata)
3- Sinai Fan-Fingered Gecko (Ptyodactylus guttatus)
4- Mediterranean House Gecko (Hemidactylus turcicus)
5- s Gecko (Mediodactylus Kotschi) 'Kotschy
6- Rough-Tail Rock Agama (Laudakia stellio)
7- Mediterranean Chameleon (Chamaeleo Chamaeleon)
8- Balkan Emerald Lizard (Lacerta media israelica)
9- Lebanon Lizard (Phoenicolacerta laevis)
10- Snake-Eyed Lizard (Ophisops elegans elegans)
11- s Skink (Eumeces schneideri) ‘Schneider
12- Snake-Eyed Skink (Ablepharus Kitaibelii)
13- Bridled Mabuya (Trachylepis vittata)
14- s Snake Skink (Ophiomorus latistii) ‘Latast
15- Eyed Cylindrical Skink (Chalcides ocellatus ocellatus)
16- s Cylindrical Skink (Chalcides guentherii) ‘Gunter
17- European Glass Lizard (Pseudopus apodus apodus)
MAIN DANGERS AND THREATS FACING BIODIVERSITY IN BATTIR HERITAGE SITE

1- The separation and annexation wall and its adverse effects including:
   - the fragmentation of the habitats and ecosystems,
   - the destruction of niches and habitats of mammals,
   - threatening of many species of wildlife,
   - prevention of wildlife populations from reproduction and breeding
   - the scarcity of preys, food, shelter and opportunities for mating.
   - annexation of most important water resources mainly the springs, which is very important for wildlife including birds.
   - the demolition of vegetation cover of the targeted area, which will endangering and threatening many plant species

2- The Intensive agriculture mainly through the intensive use of chemical fertilizers and Pesticides

3- Pollution from chemical, plastics as residues from agriculture, and sewage wastewater from surroundings, which will pollute the water of springs and the wildlife.

4- Soil erosion because of deep slopes and high precipitation without drainage system

5- Invasive alien species establishment on the account of the native species, and which affect severely the agricultural products.

6- Erosion of genetic resources mainly the native species and the adaptive agricultural varieties of vegetables and fruits.

7- Decreasing of the endemic and native plants and animals species in their natural habitats.

8- Abandonment of traditional agricultural practices in the heritage area because the income is not enough to the livelihoods of the families owned the lands

9- Introduction of the new technologies and machines in agriculture practices and irrigation systems on the account of the traditional methods

10- Disappearance of the inherited traditional knowledge and agricultural practices by the end of the old men and women in the area.

FARMING LANDSCAPE:
The Cultural Landscape of Battir, as in other sites in the world is a function of environmental and available resources; the topography of land and water springs presence, formulate their indigenous and traditional farming system.

Since centuries Palestinians in the south of Jerusalem in Batter develop stone wall terracing technique in order to overcome slope and to cope with the topography; in addition to that they develop their water resources through built canal systems that satisfy community needs. The established fields were grown with olive trees and irrigated vegetables, one of the most important up-to-date is eggplant, and that they used to market in Jerusalem. The fields contouring and well design of terraced fields form a charming rural landscape.

Due to socio-political issues, the decline in the numbers of traditional farmers, siege imposed around Jerusalem and land fragmentation process through inheritance has force many farmers to leave their lands and the abandoned fields' terraces damaged as well as irrigation canal system. Recently different rehabilitation projects were implemented but the output wasn't high in quality.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
1. Construction of water reservoir to collect the flowing water from Ein Balad spring during winter season.
2. Rehabilitation of open channels to reduce the seeps and to improve the Aesthetic view using the local materials and conserve the cultural and rural landscape.
3. Cleaning the channels from growing grasses and rocks debrides.
4. Cleaning the old roman pond from accumulating algae.
5. Preventing urban expansion over the recharge area of the springs due to the negative impacts on water quantity and quality of these springs.
6. Periodically inspection of water resources quality and prevention of pollution and stop sources of pollution
7. Prevention of the establishment of the annexation and separation wall,
8. Usage of environmental sound and friendly alternatives to chemicals such as the integrated pest management and the use of bio-control agents,
9. Traditional knowledge surveying and conservation mainly the agricultural inherited practices and skills within the old people
10. Raising the awareness of the new generations on the importance of biodiversity and its importance for agriculture,
11. Combating the invasive alien species and their effects
12. Support the farmers to continue the traditional agricultural practices
13. Keep the momentum of using the local and original varieties of agricultural crops
14. Rehabilitation of damaged terraces in the same traditional way to conserve the culture and landscape of the site.
Appendices & Annexes 2018

General view of Battir Terraces

Podonosma oreintalis
Umbilicus intermedius (rare plant)

Plantago major (Rare plat)
ANNEX 5
IPCC BATTIR SUSTAINABLE PLAN
OLD VILLAGE CORE SURVEY RESULTS

LEVEL OF STRUCTURES

Ownership and Status
As of 2017, 80% of the buildings were privately owned while 10% were publically owned. Rest of 10% buildings were undefined or mixed between privately and publically owned.

81% were occupied by their owners, with only 8% currently being rented, while 11% are mixed or undefined.

Old village core – Building Ownership

Map 15. Building ownership in the old village core
Status of the old village core buildings

- Rental: 11%
- Owned: 81%
- Others: 8%

Map showing the state of usage in Battir old core.
Floor elevations
The survey showed that 34% of buildings in the old village have one floor, 44% have two floors, 15% have three and 7% have four floors.
Type of Building Usage
According to the 2017 IPCC survey, 55% of the buildings currently serve as residential homes, 24% are abandoned, 7% are reserved for public use and/or functions, 4% are for mixed residential/commercial use and 2% are for commercial use only. The remaining 8% of buildings are used for other purposes. Closer inspection showed that 13% of the buildings had the potential to be used for public purposes, while a further 10% could be used for commercial purposes. Rest of buildings should keep original functions.
**Building Material**

61% of buildings in the old village were constructed out of stone, while 3% are comprised of stone and block, 12% of concrete, and 24% are made out of other materials.

![Building Material Pie Chart](image)
Materials used for openings in the walls (such as doors and windows) are as follows: 29% utilize aluminium, 27% are made of steel and 44% utilize other materials.

![Materials used for openings in the old village core](image)

Material used to make openings in the old village core

Legend:
- Steel
- Aluminium
- Others
Roof type

In terms of roof typology, 69% of all buildings have a flat roof, 17% have a domed roof, 8% have a pitched roof and 6% have other type of roof.
**Years of Establishment**

The majority of buildings found in the old village date back to the Ottoman period and are reflective of the building techniques styles of that time. However, some buildings were built or modified after 1967 as indicated in the following map.

The survey indicated estimate years of buildings establishment as follow: Roman period 2%, Mamluk period 1%, Early Ottoman period 5%, Late Ottoman period 23%, British Mandate 13%, 1948-1967 17%, After 1976 34%, Mixed 5%.
**State of Conservation**

A visual inspection of all buildings concluded that 16% are in excellent condition, 33% were judged to be in good condition, 40% in a poor condition, and 2% in a bad (ruin) state of conservation. Additionally, 9% of structures are still under constructions.
LEVEL OF STRUCTURES

a) Roads and Paths in the Old Village Core

The main road running through the old village core is an extension of the main north-south road of Battir. Its width varies between 5 to 8 metres and can narrow significantly in some sections, making vehicular movement difficult. A number of smaller roads and pathways branch off the main road, which has long served as an axis for urban development. Some pathways in the old village have stairs. These stairs are not accessible to the handicapped, to the very old, or to parents pushing prams.
b) Parking
There are no planned or specially designated parking areas inside the old village. Both the pavement at the entrance of the old village, as well as the plaza, are currently used for parking. Drivers also park their cars along the side of the road. There is no specially designated parking for tourist buses.
c) Open Spaces

Public or open spaces in the old village are used for different activities or events. They can be divided into private, semi-private, public and semi-public spaces.

Private spaces include courtyards attached to old houses which are used exclusively by the residents of those houses. They are mostly used for farming or by children to play, or for other house activities. Some are also empty plots that are rarely used.

Semi-private spaces are areas that are privately owned, but which are publically accessible, such as irrigated terraces.

Semi-public spaces are areas located between adjacent buildings. One example is the plaza located in front of the local clinic. It is used for a range of activities, including weddings, public meetings, festivals, parties, funeral orations and as a children’s play area.

Public spaces are designated as such, including the plaza located in front of the Roman bath and near to the Hasan Mustafa School. This is where Battir’s famous eggplant festival takes place. Other public spaces include the archaeological site “Khirbet Al Yahud”, as well as a number of empty areas that can be found throughout the old village.

Open spaces in old village centre

The Plaza in 1952 used for social festivals

1 Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Palestine Land of Olives and Vines, Cultural landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, 2013
Types of open spaces in old village core

Condition of open spaces in old village core
d) **Urban Furniture**

Urban facilities and furniture have an important role to play in making the old village more liveable and attractive for local residents. In the old village, this includes:

1. Public benches: some public benches are located close to the pool, above the Roman Bath and close to the Souvenir shop.
2. Garbage containers: a number of both large and small garbage bins can be found along the main and other smaller roads in the old village.
3. Lighting, electrical and telephone columns
4. Bus stops designed with a tend (canopy)
5. Pavements: Including concrete flooring that covers the main plaza in the court, while areas above the Roman bath are paved with concrete tiles and used for unplanned parking.
6. Fences: Different types of fences are used to protect pedestrians throughout the old village.
7. Different plants used for decoration of courtyards, walls, fences etc.
8. Promotional features: Advertising boards have been erected for commercial use.

![Old village urban furniture](image1)

**e) Trees**

Old trees can be found in the village, including pine and olive trees. These add to the village's aesthetic value and should be protected. The older and more important trees, 29 of these, are indicated on the map below.

![Old village urban furniture](image2)
f) Landmark
There are a number of buildings currently perceived as landmarks within the old village core, including the landscape terraces, Roman Pool, Roman Bath, Cemetery, the Eco Museum, the Cultural Centre, the Mosque, and Abu Zeid Makam.
g) Land use

Mixed land use exists in the old village core which accommodates both public and residential buildings, a cemetery and agricultural terraces.
ANNEX 6

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN INTERIM AGREEMENT ON THE WEST BANK & THE GAZA STRIP
POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CIVIL AFFAIRS

ARTICLE 2

Archaeology

1. Powers and responsibilities in the sphere of archaeology in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be transferred from the military government and its Civil Administration to the Palestinian side. This sphere includes, inter alia, the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, management, supervision, licensing and all other archaeological activities.

2. In Area C, powers and responsibilities related to the sphere of Archaeology will be transferred gradually to Palestinian jurisdiction that will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory except for the issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations, during the further redeployment phases, to be completed within 18 months from the date of the inauguration of the Council.

3. The Palestinian side shall protect and safeguard all archaeological sites, take all measures necessary to protect such sites and to prevent damage to them and take all precautions when carrying out activities, including maintenance and construction activities, which may affect such sites.

4. A Joint Committee of experts from both sides shall be established by the CAC to deal with archaeological issues of common interest.

5. The Palestinian side shall respect academic freedom and rights in this sphere.

6. Subject to academic considerations, and in accordance with the law, when the Palestinian side grants excavation licenses to archaeologists, researchers and academics, it shall do so without discrimination.

7. The Palestinian side shall ensure free access to archaeological sites, open to the public without discrimination.

8. Both sides shall inform each other, through the Joint Committee, of the discovery of new archaeological sites in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

9. Each side undertakes upon itself to respect sites in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which are regarded as holy, or which hold archaeological value. Each side shall have the right to raise issues relating to those sites before the Joint Committee which will consider the issue raised and reach an agreement upon such issue.

    The sites listed in Schedule 1 are of archaeological and historical importance to the Israeli side. The Israeli side may notify the Palestinian side of other sites which shall be added to this list. The Palestinian side will take into consideration that actions which may affect these sites shall be referred to the Joint Committee for full cooperation.

10. In areas transferred to the territorial jurisdiction of the Palestinian side, the Israeli side shall provide the Palestinian side with all archaeological records, including, inter alia, a list of all excavated sites and a detailed list and description of archaeological artifacts found since 1967.
With due consideration to the Palestinian demand that Israel shall return all archaeological artifacts found in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 1967, this issue shall be dealt with in the negotiations on the final status.

11.

a. Both sides shall take all necessary steps to prevent the theft of archaeological artifacts.
b. Both sides shall enforce the prohibitions on illegal trading in archaeological artifacts and shall, in this context, prevent any transfer of such artifacts to Israel or abroad.
c. In this regard, and with a view to safeguarding their common interests, Israel and the Palestinian side shall cooperate, exchange information and take necessary measures to combat the theft of, and illegal trade and transport of archaeological artifacts, including between areas under the territorial jurisdiction of the two sides, coordinating such activity through the Joint Committee.

ARTICLE 32

Religious Sites

1. Responsibility over sites of religious significance in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (hereinafter - "Holy Sites") will be transferred to the Palestinian side. In Area C, this responsibility will be transferred gradually to Palestinian jurisdiction that will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory except for the issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations, during the further redeployment phases, to be completed within 18 months from the date of the inauguration of the Council.

2. Both sides shall respect and protect the listed below religious rights of Jews, Christians, Moslems and Samaritans:

a. protection of the Holy Sites;
b. free access to the Holy Sites; and
c. freedom of worship and practice.

3.

a. The Palestinian side shall ensure free access to, respect the ways of worship in and not make any changes to, the Jewish Holy Sites listed in List No. 1 of Schedule 4.
b. The Palestinian side shall ensure free access to, and respect the ways of worship in, the Jewish Holy Sites listed in List No. 2 of Schedule 4.
c. Schedule 4 shall be updated commensurate with the gradual transfer of responsibility in accordance with paragraph 1.

4. The holy site of Nebi Musa shall be under the auspices of the Palestinian side for religious purposes.

5. During religious events that take place three times a year and other special occasions that shall be coordinated with the Israeli authorities, Palestinians shall have the right to religious pilgrimage to the Al-Maghtas under the Palestinian flag. Safe passage will be provided from the Jericho Area to Al-Maghtas for this purpose.
SCHEDULE 4
Pursuant to Article 32, paragraph 3 of this Appendix:

List No. 1
Elazar’s Tomb, Ittamar’s Tomb and the Tomb of the 70 Elders in Awarta.
Joshua’s Tomb in Kifel-Hares.
The Cave of Othniel ben Knaz in Hebron.
The Eshtamoa Synagogue in Samoa.
The Yata Synagogue.
Batir.
Sebastia/Samaria.

List No. 2
Nun’s Tomb and Caleb’s Tomb in Kifel-Hares.
The Tombs of Natan the Prophet and Gad the Seer in Halhul.
The Naran Synagogue - Ein Duk.
The Jewish Cemetery in Sammerat.
The Synagogue in Gaza City.

a. Paragraphs 2 and 3(a) of Article 32 of Appendix 1 to Annex III of the Interim Agreement will be applicable to the following Holy Sites in Area H-1:
   1. The Cave of Othniel Ben Knaz/El-Khalil;
   2. Elonei Mamre/Haram Er-Rameh;
   3. Eshel Avraham/Balotat Ibrahim; and

SCHEDULE 1
Archaeological Sites of Importance to the Israeli Side Pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 9 of this Appendix:

1. The Samoa Synagogue/Ashtamaa
2. The Maon Synagogue/Ma’in
3. The Synagogue in Yata
4. Tel Rumeida (Tomb of Yishai and Ruth in Biblical Hebron)
5. Betar/Batir
6. The Hasmonean Palaces
7. Sebastia/Samaria
8. Elonei Mamre/Haram Er-Rameh
9. The Naaran Synagogue - Ein Diuk
10. The Jewish Cemetery in Tel Sammarat
11. The "Shalom Al Israel" Synagogue in Jericho
12. The Jewish Synagogue in Gaza City.
ARTICLE 37
Tourism
1. Powers and responsibilities in the sphere of Tourism in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be transferred from the military government and its Civil Administration to the Palestinian side. This sphere includes, inter alia, regulating, licensing, classifying, and supervising tourist services, sites and industries. It also includes promoting foreign and domestic tourism and developing the Palestinian tourist sources and sites. It includes, as well, supervising the marketing, promotion and information activities related to foreign and domestic tourism.

2. In Area C, while powers and responsibilities regarding the development of visitors, interest in tourist sites and the encouragement of the development of tourist services around them, in coordination with the Israeli side, will be transferred during the first phase of redeployment, other powers and responsibilities regarding those sites will be transferred gradually to Palestinian jurisdiction that will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory except for the issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations, during the further redeployment phases, to be completed within 18 months from the date of the inauguration of the Council.


4. Without derogating from the provisions of paragraph 9 of Article X of Annex V (Protocol on Economic Relations), a Joint Committee, established through the CAC, shall facilitate coordination and cooperation on day to day tourism issues.

ARTICLE V Sectors of Economic Cooperation
1. Industrial Cooperation
6. Tourism
   a. In order to best utilize the unique advantages provided to the tourism industry in conditions of stability, the two sides shall examine ways to:
      (1) increase the volume of incoming tourism;
      (2) plan and develop the necessary infrastructure, facilities and services in order to accommodate increased demand;
      (3) encourage the involvement of major foreign, regional, as well as multinational tourist conglomerates and entrepreneurs; and
      (4) continue and expand the existing vocational training programs, in the various tourist vocations.
      (5) encourage joint ventures in the tourism field in all areas of mutual benefit including on the Dead Sea. In this regard Palestinian private projects as well as joint ventures in accordance with the DOP, will be located as agreed on the shore of the Dead Sea.
   b. The two sides shall exchange information and promote cooperation on planned tourism development projects and tourism marketing projects, tourist exhibits, exhibitions, conventions and publications.
   c. The two sides shall facilitate and encourage smooth movement of tourists between their respective areas.
   d. The two sides shall also encourage the development of cooperation programs between their competent organizations in this field.
ANNEX 7
BATTIR DECLARATION
Declaration regarding the Safeguarding of

Palestine, Land of Olives and Vines
The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir

Recognising the outstanding universal value of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir;

Stressing that this landscape has been for generations, and continues to be a major source of income for the inhabitants of Battir, as well as a major provider of agricultural products for the neighbouring towns and villages;

Underlining the importance of preserving our property for future generations, and maintaining its continuity and sustainability;

Noting that our landscape can serve as a tool for development, and yet be preserved and conserved;

Considering that the aim of the preservation and conservation of our property aims to improve the quality of life of inhabitants;

Emphasising our role, as key actors of the different components that compose together the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, in preserving and promoting the site; and

Realising the role of the various stakeholders in preserving, promoting and managing the site.

We, the undersigned, agree to nominate and inscribe the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir on the World Heritage List, and stress that we fully agree that this inscription shall aim to conserve it, and shall commit us, as the acting owners of the property, to preserve and protect it from change and to maintain the current shape and use of the territory, the vegetable gardens “Al-Lenan” and agricultural terraces, and to cultivate and harvest them.

We also commit to support the various state actors in the implementation of any management and conservation plan prepared to well conserve outstanding universal value of this area and/or any protection procedures asked by the World Heritage Committee.

Signed in the Village of Battir on Monday, 14 January 2013, by Battir village council, and representatives of the eight families living in Battir in order to support the nomination inscription of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir on UNESCO’s World Heritage List.
Signatories:

Akram Bader
Battir Village Council

Representative of
Abu-Ni'mah Family

Representative of
Abu-Obidallah Family

Representative of
Bathah Family

Representative of
Botmah Family

Representative of
Kattoush Family

Representative of
Mashni Family

Representative of
Mu'ammar Family

Representative of
Oweinah Family

Witnesses

Arch. Issam Juha, Director
Centre for Cultural Heritage
Preservation – Bethlehem

Dr. Hamdan Ta’ata, The Assistant
Deputy Minister Of Antiquities and
Cultural Heritage
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
إعلان بشأن الحفاظ على المشهد الثقافي لجنوب القدس، يثير
فلسطين، أرض العنب والزيتون

إقراراً منا لقيمة العالمية المميزة للمشهد الثقافي لجنوب القدس، يثير;
وتؤكدنا على أهمية الحفاظ على هذا المشهد الثقافي المميز الذي كان عبر الأجيال ولا يزال
مصدرًا دخل رئيسي لسكان بيتير، وسيلة المنتجات الزراعية الرئيسية للبلدان والقرى المجاورة;
وإقراراً منا لأهمية الحفاظ على ممتلكاتنا الثقافية للأجيال القادمة وضمان استمراريتها
وإسهاماتها؛

وملاحظة إمكانية اعتبار المشهد الثقافي تبتر أداة للتنمية المستدامة يجب الحفاظ عليه وصيانته؛
وباعتناء أن الهدف من الحفاظ وصيانة الممتلكات الثقافية لدينا تهدف إلى تحسين نوعية حياة
سكان بيتير والحفاظ على هويتهم الثقافية;
وتؤكدنا على دورنا كجهة رئيسية قاعية في الحفاظ على مختلف عناصر ومكونات المشهد
الثقافي لجنوب القدس وتمثيلهم المستدامة،
وأطلالاً من إدراكنا لأهمية دور مختلف الجهات ذات العلاقة والمملكة في الحفاظ على المشهد
الثقافي وتمثيله المستدامة وحسن إدارته.

فنحن الموقعون أعلاه، نوافقون على ترشيح وإدراج المشهد الثقافي لجنوب القدس، يثير على
قائمة التراث العالمي، ونؤكد أن هذا الإدراج يهدف إلى الحفاظ عليه وعلى جميع مكوناته
وأصالته وكامليته. وهذا الإعلان يلزمنا جميعا كوننا أصحاب ومالكي هذا المشهد وحمايته
الثقافي والحضاري على صيانته وحمايته من التغيير والحفاظ على مظهره وشكله والاستخدام
الحالي للتراث، والحقوق النباتية "الجناح"، والمدرجات الزراعية، والطرق التقليدية لزراعتها
وحصادها وزيتها.

وتعتز أيضًا بدعم مختلف الجهات الرسمية في تنفيذ أي خطة إدارة وحفاظ يتم إعدادها للحفاظ
على القيمة العالمية المميزة لهذه المنطقة أو أي إجراءات حماية تطلبها لجنة التراث العالمي أو
المؤسسات الرسمية الوطنية ذات الصلة.

[توقيع]
تم توقيع هذا الإعلان في قرية بيتير في يوم الاثنين الموافق 14 كانون ثاني 2013م، من قبل المجلس القرؤي لقرية بيتير، ومن جميع ممثلى العائلات الثمانية الذين يعيشون في بيتير وذلك لدعم ترشيح أدرج المشهد الثقافي لجنوب القدس، بيتير على قائمة التراث العالمي للبوينس.  

الموقعون:

- رئيس المجلس القرؤي
  أكرم بدر

- ممثل عن عائلة أبو عبد الله

- ممثل عن عائلة أبو نعمة

- ممثل عن عائلة الشلهة

- ممثل عن عائلة البطش

- ممثل عن عائلة عونه

- ممثل عن عائلة معمر

- ممثل عن عائلة المشنيل

- وزارة النزاهة و الآثار

- وكيل مساعدة قطاع الآثار والتراث الثقافي

- د. حمدان مله
ANNEX 8
BATTIR MASTER PLAN
PALESTINE: “LAND OF OLIVES & VINES - CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF SOUTHERN JERUSALEM, BATTIR”

MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION PLAN
# CONTENTS:

List of Figures and Tables ................................................................. 2
List of Abbreviations ................................................................. 7
Foreword ................................................................................. 9
Preface .................................................................................... 10
Acknowledgments ...................................................................... 11
Executive Summary .................................................................. 13

**VOLUME ONE** ........................................................................ 15

# PART 1: THE PROPERTY, ITS VALUES AND ATTRIBUTES

**CHAPTER ONE:**
THE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION PLAN AND ITS CONTEXT ................................................................. 16

1.1 Background Information on the Property .................................................................................... 17
1.2 Nomination History ................................................................................................................... 17
1.3 The Purpose of the Management Conservation Plan .................................................................. 18
1.4 The Structure of the Management and Conservation Plan .......................................................... 19
1.5 The Approach of the Management and Conservation Plan ....................................................... 19
1.6 Documentation and Data Source .................................................................................................. 20

**CHAPTER TWO:**
IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY, SIGNIFICANCE, AND PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES ................. 22

2.1 Property Identification .................................................................................................................. 23
2.1.1 The Property .......................................................................................................................... 23
2.1.2 The Buffer Zone ...................................................................................................................... 25
2.2 Significance of the WHP .............................................................................................................. 26
2.2.1 Statement of Outstanding Universal Value .............................................................................. 27
2.2.2 Criteria under which the WHP Was Inscribed ......................................................................... 28
2.2.3 Statement of Integrity ............................................................................................................. 28
2.2.4 Statement of Authenticity ....................................................................................................... 28
2.2.5 Other Heritage Values of the WHP .......................................................................................... 29
    Intangible Heritage Values ........................................................................................................ 29
    Sociocultural Values ................................................................................................................. 33
    Historical Value ........................................................................................................................ 34
    Educational Value .................................................................................................................... 34
    Aesthetic Values ....................................................................................................................... 34
    Natural Values .......................................................................................................................... 35
2.3 The WHP Values and Their Associated Attributes ........................................................................ 36
2.4 Physical Attributes within the WHP ............................................................................................ 38
    1. Rural Dry-Stone and Vernacular Architecture .......................................................................... 38
    2. Agricultural Terraces and Olive Groves ................................................................................... 38
    3. Agricultural watchtowers ........................................................................................................ 41
    4. Limekilns .................................................................................................................................. 44
    5. Ancient Olive Presses ............................................................................................................. 45
    6. Agricultural Fields Surrounding the Village: The People of Bati and Their Paradise ............. 46
    7. The irrigation System .............................................................................................................. 47
    8. Human Settlement Remains (al-Khirab) .................................................................................. 48
    9. The Historic Buildings .......................................................................................................... 50
PART 2: THE ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHAPTER THREE: PHYSICAL CONDITION ASSESSMENT

3.1 Previous Studies in the World Heritage Property
3.2 Physical Attributes Assessment
3.2.1 State of Conservation of Terraces and Dry-Stone Walls
3.2.2 State of Conservation of the Watchtowers (Qaser)
3.2.3 State of Conservation of the Irrigation System (Pools, Canals, and Springs)
3.2.4 State of Conservation of the Historical Buildings
3.2.5 State of Conservation of Archaeological Remains (Khirab, Caves, Tombs, and Paths)
3.3 Environmental Profile Assessment
3.3.1 Environmental Field Assessment
3.3.2 Assessment of Landscape Cover
3.4 Tourism Dynamics of the WHP Assessment
3.4.1 Introduction
3.4.2 Budgets and Financial Resources
3.4.3 Key Tourism Stakeholders in the WHP
3.4.4 Infrastructure, Facilities, and Services
3.4.5 Parking Facilities
3.4.6 Accessibility
3.4.7 Handicraft Sector
3.4.8 Tourism Promotion of the WHP
3.4.9 Hiking Trail
3.5 Potential and Current Factors Affecting the WHP

CHAPTER FOUR: OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT CONTEXTS ASSESSMENT

4.1 The Ownership
4.2 Management Structure of Cultural Heritage Properties in Palestine
4.3 Legal Framework (Laws, Bylaws & Regulations)
4.3.1 Historical Background of the Cultural Heritage Legislation in Palestine
4.3.2 Current Legislation for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the WHP
1. International Conventions
2. Bilateral Agreements
3. Cultural and Natural Heritage Legislation in Palestine
4.4 Institutional Framework (Stakeholders, Partner Institutions and Their Responsibilities)
4.4.1 Institutions Involved in Managing the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir
4.4.2 Conservation and Management of the Cultural Landscape
4.5 Planning Framework (Planning Instruments)
4.5.1 National Spatial Plan
4.5.2 Battir Municipality Annual Action Plan
4.5.3 Thematic Planning (Site Master Plan)
4.5.4 Battir 2020 Tourism Initiative
4.6 Resources (Human and Financial)
## PART 3: THE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

### CHAPTER FIVE:
SWOT ANALYSIS, VISION, AND OBJECTIVES ................................. 87

- 5.1 SWOT Analysis of the WHP, Battir ........................................... 88
- 5.2 Vision for the World Heritage Property “Palestine Land of Olives and Vines, the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir” ................................................................. 92
- 5.3 Management and Conservation Themes for the WHP ................................................................. 92
  - 5.3.1 Management and Planning Theme ........................................... 93
  - 5.3.2 Conservation and Protection Theme ...................................... 93
  - 5.3.3 Tourism and Visitor Management Theme ................................ 94
  - 5.3.4 Engagement of Local Community and Public Awareness Theme .................................................. 95
  - 5.3.5 Infrastructure and Accessibility Theme .................................. 95

### CHAPTER SIX:
IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE MCP .................. 96

- 6.1 The Operational Management System ..................................... 97
  - 6.1.1 MoTA Proposed Structure .................................................. 97
  - 6.1.2 The MCP’s Steering Committee ........................................... 98
  - 6.1.3 The Site Management Committee ....................................... 99
  - 6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation ................................................... 102

### VOLUME TWO .............................................................................. 106

- Action Plan .................................................................................. 106
  1. MCP Action Plan ...................................................................... 106
  2. Abbreviations ........................................................................... 106
  5. Action Plan for Tourism and Visitor Management Theme .............. 117
  6. Action Plan for Engagement of the Local Community and Public Awareness Theme ............................................ 121
  7. Action Plan for Infrastructure and Accessibility Theme .................. 123
- Bibliography ................................................................................. 125
LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure 2.1 Palestine, Land of Olives and Vines: Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir .......................... 23
Figure 2.2 Map of the Region ......................................................................................................................... 24
Figure 2.3 Map of the World Heritage Property and Buffer Zones .............................................................. 25
Figure 2.4 Ancient Irrigation Pool that Feeds the WHP Terraces .............................................................. 27
Figure 2.5 View of the Village of Battir and Surrounding Agricultural Terraces ........................................ 28
Figure 2.6 View of the Irrigated Terraces to the West of the Village of Battir ........................................... 29
Figure 2.7 Al-ma’doud, a Stick Used to Determine the Level of Water in the Pool Before Distributing it on the Farmers .................................................................................................................. 30
Figure 2.8 Olive Groves Near Battir Village ................................................................................................. 32
Figure 2.9 The Ancient Pool and al-Mashakib, the Small Gardens, 1950 .................................................... 33
Figure 2.10 General View of the WHP’s Northern Area .............................................................................. 35
Figure 2.11 Common Flora Registered in the WHP ................................................................................. 35
Figure 2.12 General View of Wadi Al Makhrour .................................................................................... 38
Figure 2.13 An Olive Grove near Khirbet Battir ...................................................................................... 39
Figure 2.14 Map of Dry-Stone Walls throughout the Property .................................................................. 40
Figure 2.15 Terraces Built with Dry-Stone Walls along the Property ....................................................... 40
Figure 2.16 Agricultural Watchtowers (manatir) in the Wadi al- Makhour .................................................. 41
Figure 2.17 Map of Agricultural Watchtowers in the WHP ..................................................................... 42
Figure 2.18 Sample Plans Depicting Different Watchtowers in the WHP ................................................... 43
Figure 2.19 A Quadrilateral Watchtower (Left) and a Round Watchtower (Right) ........................................ 44
Figure 2.20 The Limekiln near the Battir Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway ............................................................ 45
Figure 2.21 Remains of an Ancient Oil Press Near Battir Village .............................................................. 45
Figure 2.22 Agricultural Terraces Near Battir Village ............................................................................. 46
Figure 2.23 View of the Irrigated Terraces in 1892 ©Palestine Exploration Fund ..................................... 46
Figure 2.24 Water Pouring into an Ancient Pool in Battir Village ............................................................ 47
Figure 2.25 A View of Khirbet Battir Overlooking Battir Village .............................................................. 48
Figure 2.26 Map of the Location of Human Settlement Remains (AL-Khirab) in the WHP ......................... 49
Figure 2.27 Battir Village during the 1950s ................................................................................................. 50
Figure 2.28 Maqam Al-Sheikh Khatatib (Left) and Maqam Abu Zaid (Right) ............................................. 51
Figure 2.29 Villagers Celebrating a Social Occasion in al-Saha, 1952 (Battir Cultural Center) ............... 52
Figure 3.1 State of Conservation of the Dry-stone Walls. ........................................................................ 52
Figure 3.2 Map of the State of Conservation of the Dry-stone Walls ....................................................... 53
Figure 3.3 Floors of the Watchtowers ....................................................................................................... 55
Figure 3.4 State of Conservation of the Watchtowers ............................................................................. 56
Figure 3.5 Field Survey of Watchtowers .................................................................................................. 56
Figure 3.6 Map of the WHP Watchtowers with their State of Conservation Indicated ........................... 57
Figure 3.7 Map of the Ein El-Balad State of Conservation Indicated ...................................................... 58
Figure 3.8 Map of the Ein Jami’ State of Conservation Indicated ............................................................ 59
Figure 3.9 Ein El-Hawweyeh Pool ........................................................................................................... 60
Figure 3.10 Map of the El-Hawweyeh Spring State of Conservation Indicated ........................................... 60
Figure 3.11 Map of the Wadi Al-A’ion State of Conservation ............................................................... 61
Figure 3.12 Current Use of the Historical Buildings in the Old Core ....................................................... 62
Figure 3.13 Eras of Construction of the Historical Buildings in the Old Core ......................................... 62
Figure 3.14 State of Conservation of Historical Buildings ........................................................................ 63
Figure 3.15 Map of the WHP Historical Buildings with their Physical Condition Indicated .................. 63
Table 1 The WHP Geographic Coordinates ................................................................. 24
Table 2 The WHP Values and Their Associated Attributes ........................................ 36
Table 3 CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 1 .................................................. 65
Table 4 CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 2 .................................................. 66
Table 5 CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 3 .................................................. 67
Table 6 Potential and Current factors affected the WHP ............................................ 72
Table 7 WHP Stakeholder Roles ................................................................................... 83
Table 8 SWOT Analysis Results .................................................................................. 88
Table 9 The Roles of the WHP Management System Unit .......................................... 101
table 10 Monitoring Indicators .................................................................................... 103
## List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASO</td>
<td>Israeli Archaeology Staff Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD</td>
<td>Anno Domini: Used in the Christian calendar when referring to a year after Jesus Christ was born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIJ</td>
<td>Applied Research Institute Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Before Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHP</td>
<td>Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DACH</td>
<td>Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoA</td>
<td>Department of Antiquities</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOSCR</td>
<td>Desired State of Conservation Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>Environmental Quality Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCJ</td>
<td>Israeli High Court of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICA</td>
<td>Israeli Civil Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCROM</td>
<td>International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICOMOS</td>
<td>International Council on Monuments and Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPCC</td>
<td>International Peace and Cooperation Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Natural properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCP</td>
<td>Management and Conservation Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDLF</td>
<td>Municipal Development and Lending Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoA</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoC</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture</td>
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<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Endowment</td>
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<td>MoFP</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Planning</td>
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<td>MoLG</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government</td>
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<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>OG</td>
<td>Operational Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTs</td>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territories</td>
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<tr>
<td>OUV</td>
<td>Outstanding Universal Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARC</td>
<td>Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMSP</td>
<td>Palestinian Municipality Support Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDA</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUV</td>
<td>Statement of Outstanding Universal Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHC</td>
<td>World Heritage Convention</td>
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<td>Whcom</td>
<td>World Heritage Committee</td>
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<td>WHL</td>
<td>World Heritage List</td>
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<td>WHP</td>
<td>World Heritage Property</td>
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FOREWORD

On behalf of the Palestinian people, I am very pleased to present the Management and Conservation Plan for the World Heritage Property, “Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines—Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir” to the World Heritage Committee. This fundamental tool was prepared to protect one of the best known representations of the Palestinian cultural landscape and its significant cultural and historical heritage, which testifies to thousands of years of human interaction with the environment.

This Management and Conservation Plan was developed with the aim to provide a sustainable management framework for conserving and protecting the World Heritage Property (WHP), its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and Authenticity and Integrity, as well as to improve the socio-economic status of the local community, and enrich the experience of its visitors and inhabitants alike. Safeguarding this rich and exceptional Property is a shared responsibility. Accordingly, this plan was developed through comprehensive consultation and engagement of the local community and related partners and stakeholders. It also takes into account the adopted Desired State of Conservation and the Corrective Measures to remove the site from the World Heritage List in Danger.

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere appreciation to those who worked to prepare and refine this plan, notably the effort of the UNESCO office in Palestine for their collaboration in producing this document. I am confident that this plan will be an effective management and conservation instrument to secure sustainable conservation of the WHP, its OUV, and its physical attributes.
Preface

“Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines—Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine”

(Ref. 1492)

was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014 following an emergency nomination, in accordance with criteria (iv) and (v), and immediately included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, after it was acknowledged that the landscape was threatened by emerging and intensifying sociocultural and geopolitical transformations with the potential to cause irreversible damage to the site’s authenticity and integrity—citing specifically the start of construction of an Israeli “Wall” that may isolate local farmers from fields they have cultivated for centuries.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 39 COM 8B.52) underscored the negative impact of the planned separation barrier “wall” on the authenticity of the cultural landscape. The property and its features would be severely altered by the construction of such a barrier, along with the accompanying service roads on each of its sides, as these features would visually obstruct and physically disfigure much of the site’s landscape and terrace system.

The State of Palestine subsequently prepared the Desired State of Conservation Report (DSOCR) and Key Corrective Measures, which were adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 39COM7A.29) as necessary for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The reports also highlight the importance of preparing a Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for this World Heritage Property (WHP).

In 2016, the State of Palestine also prepared the timeline for the implementation of the corrective measures, which was adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 41COM7A.43).

Understanding that a holistic MCP is key to ensuring adequate respect and effective safeguarding of the property and its inherent Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the stakeholders prepared the site’s Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) based on the guidelines cited in the nomination file. Following a request to the World Heritage Centre by the State of Palestine for international assistance in preparing the MCP, UNESCO allocated a budget to fund the task. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) has composed the MCP in cooperation with the Battir Municipality, UNESCO Ramallah Office, and related stakeholders.

This Management and Conservation Plan aims to set the overarching strategy for achieving an appropriate balance between conservation, access, the interests of the local community, and the sustainable use of the site over time, whether for recreation and tourism or agriculture. It also aims to protect the site’s OUV and its physical attributes, provide visitors access in a way that promotes responsible and respectful use of the site, help enhance the socio-economic situation of the WHP’s community, and aid in sustaining local agricultural activities.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work would not have been possible without the support of Her Excellency Rula Ma’aya, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities. We would like to thank her for the efforts and support to facilitate this work.

The document was prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, directed by the General Directorate of the World Heritage Sites at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and coordinated by Arch. Marwa Adwan. We extend our gratefulness to all partners and stakeholders who contributed to develop this Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP, “Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines—Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine.”

We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to the steering committee members, for their contribution in preparing this document, including the Environment Quality Authority (EQA), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), the Hussan Village Council, the Beit-Jala Municipality, the CCHP, and the IPCC, in addition to the Battir Municipality staff and the community of Battir, who welcomed us and dedicated their valuable time and efforts to discuss the present and future development of the management and conservation of the World Heritage Property in Battir. We also thank the focus group who represented the local community and provided their knowledge and support to prepare this plan.

The preparation of this document was made possible through continuous guidance and technical support of Mr. Junaid Sorosh Wali, Head of the Culture Unit, and Arch. Mohammad Abu Hammad, from the UNESCO National Office for Palestine, as well as Dr. Luisa De Marco and Mr. Francesco Marchese, the international cultural heritage consultants who reviewed and helped us to improve the MCP.

We also extend our appreciation to the World Heritage Centre for financing the preparation of this Plan with the generous contribution of the World Heritage Fund through the UNESCO National Office for Palestine. We also thank the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage for their financial contribution for the elaboration of this plan.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines—Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine (Ref. 1492) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014 and immediately on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Property (WHP), which covers approximately 13 square kilometers of land, encompasses various cultural heritage elements that represent an outstanding example of cultural landscape and illustrates the development of human settlements for the past 4,000 years.

For centuries, the task of conserving and managing the WHP’s physical and cultural landscape was undertaken by the farmers of Battir, Hussan, and Beit Jala, who carefully maintained and utilized the landscape as their resource. But today, due to socioeconomic and geopolitical changes, the traditional daily care of the landscape cannot be guaranteed, as much of the population no longer relies on farming as a source of livelihood. Therefore, the conservation of the property requires ad-hoc policies and strategies as well as specific expertise. Such is needed to enable the State of Palestine and the related local authorities to safeguard this outstanding site for present and future generations.

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) has prepared the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) in cooperation with a Steering Committee established in April 2017, which includes MoTA, EQA, MoA, MoLG, Battir Municipality, Hussan Village Council, Beit Jala Municipality, CCHP, IPCC, UNESCO Ramallah Office, and representatives of the local community, who will approve, implement, and update the MCP’s objectives, strategies and actions. The preparation of the MCP was based on a participatory approach that involves all relevant stakeholders and actors in all phases of preparation, development, and implementation of the MCP. A value-driven approach that is consistent with Palestinian local conditions has also been developed and applied as a methodology for the preparation of the MCP.

This MCP details the unique value of the site; provides a clear blueprint of the steps that will be taken to conserve, valorize, and enhance it over a ten-year period; and outlines how its significance will be explained and exhibited to visitors and locals alike. Realizing that a holistic Management and Conservation Plan is key to ensuring adequate respect and effective safeguarding of the property and its inherent Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the MCP has been drafted taking into account the Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) and the key Corrective Measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

The structure of the MCP comprises two main volumes: Volume One focuses on the property, its values and attributes, its management and conservation, physical condition assessment, ownership and management contexts assessment as well as its management and planning including SWOT analysis, vision, and objectives, the management system and monitoring of the MCP; Volume Two describes the “The Action Plan” developed for the site.

The objectives, strategies, and actions of the MCP were developed in consultation with all key stakeholders including the local community. They cover all domains of the site’s components and
were generated in order to protect, conserve and sustain the WHP’s physical attributes and all its heritage values and features, enhance the presentation and interpretation of the site, and improve the socioeconomic status of the local community. The MCP additionally defines the implementation system of the MCP and the monitoring mechanisms.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that MOTA takes a lead in management planning for the WHP to ensure the development of capacity building in heritage management according to international principles at both state and local levels. The process of developing the MCP will ideally lead to a more proactive engagement of local actors, including local authorities and other relevant ministries and state agencies.
PART 1:
THE PROPERTY, ITS VALUES AND ATTRIBUTES

CHAPTER ONE:
THE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION PLAN AND ITS CONTEXT
1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROPERTY

The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir is an organically evolved landscape that initially resulted from social and economic activities, as well as religious imperatives, according to the oral history of the local inhabitants. It belongs to the second category of cultural landscapes; notably, the majority of the area falls within the continuous landscapes subcategory, with some parts falling within the relict landscape subcategory.

The property includes traditional footpaths used by the farmers and inhabitants of Battir, Hussan, and Beit Jala, to navigate their land. This network of paths originates at the Wadi Al-Makhrour and extends towards the village of Battir, and then towards the springs of Hussan village. It also includes various ancient human settlements that developed around the many springs that dot the mountain slopes.

These settlements, many of which date back to the Bronze Age, have contributed to the creation of a unique cultural landscape composed of agricultural terraces supported by dry-stone walls, agricultural watchtowers (manatir or qusoor), olive oil presses, ancient irrigation pools to collect the water flowing from the springs, ancient irrigation canals, and other human settlement remains (khirab).

The property is mentioned in several travel books (Robinson, 1856) that were written during the first half of the nineteenth century. It is associated by many scholars with biblical Bether, the last stronghold of Bar Kokhba in his revolt against the Romans in 135 BC. Excavations in Khirbet Battir revealed findings that date back to the Canaanite Period. Excavations also made the significant discovery that, contrary to the common narrative of the site, it is actually an ancient Canaanite site, and is one of the largest excavated Middle Bronze Age sites in the region (Rapoport - 2006). Other excavations conducted in the valley have revealed remains that date back to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Persian, and Hellenistic Periods and later periods (Dagan - 2010).

Please refer to Appendix 2 for more details.

1.2 NOMINATION HISTORY

“Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines—Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine” covers approximately 13 square kilometers of land, encompasses various cultural heritage elements that represent an outstanding example of cultural landscape and illustrates the development of human settlements for the past 4,000 years. The property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014 (Ref. 1492) following an emergency nomination, in accordance with criteria (iv) and (v), and immediately on the List of World Heritage in Danger, after it was acknowledged that the landscape was threatened by emerging and intensifying sociocultural and geopolitical transformations with the potential to cause irreversible damage to the site’s authenticity and integrity—citing specifically the start of construction of an Israeli “Wall” that may isolate local farmers from fields they have cultivated for centuries.

The State of Palestine subsequently prepared the Desired State of Conservation Report (DSOCR) and Key Corrective Measures, which were adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 39COM7A.29) as necessary for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

A. Desired State of Conservation
- Dismissal of plans to build a “Wall” along the property, or within its surroundings,
- Adequate conservation of the agricultural terraces and their associated components, including watchtowers and dry stone walls throughout the property,
- Adequate restoration of the irrigation system and the development of a sufficient sewage system to protect water quality on the property,
- Protection methods in place for the property and its buffer zone,
- Adoption of a management plan and monitoring system, and a sustainable management structure in place.
1.3 THE PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION PLAN

The primary purpose of this Management and Conservation Plan is to ensure sustainable management and conservation of the World Heritage Property’s OUV and its physical attributes for present and future generations, as well as to assist enhancing the socio-economic status of the local community through encouraging sustainable economic opportunities, e.g. by sustaining local agricultural activities, providing visitors access in a way that promotes responsible and respectful use of the site. Other heritage values of the property were also identified and subsequently assessed for management and conservation needs.

The reports also highlight the importance of preparing a Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for this World Heritage Property (WHP).

In reference to the World Heritage Committee decisions (Decision 39 COM 7A.28, 40 COM 7A.15, and 41COM 7A.43), the World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to undertake “the preparation, approval, and implementation of a Conservation and a Management Plan for the property.” Thus, it became necessary to prepare a plan for conserving and managing the property, as well as to develop protection methods for the property and its buffer zone, in addition to implement of an active system of management that involves local community and stakeholders.

Consequently, the various stakeholders—mainly the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), the UNESCO Ramallah Office, Environment Quality Authority (EQA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), The Centre for Cultural heritage Preservation (CCHP), Beit Jala Municipality, Hussan Village Council, and Battir Municipality1— bore the responsibility to initiate the process of developing a proper management system and plan for the property in compliance with the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the Committee’s Decisions and the adopted DSOCR and related Corrective Measures.

In 2016, the State of Palestine also prepared the timeline for the implementation of the corrective measures, which was adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision 41COM7A.43).

The Management Conservation Plan highlights the main physical survival of the cultural heritage features and the improvement of their condition, enhancing the visual character of the WHP’s landscape, protecting biodiversity, and improving the interpretation and presentation of the WHP to visitors. Based on participatory approach, the MCP sets out objectives, strategies and actions to better respond to challenges and obstacles facing the property and to be better managed, conserved and promoted for present and future generations. This MCP details the unique value of the site; provides a clear blueprint of the steps that will be taken to conserve, valorize, and enhance it over a

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1. For more details see Appendix 1, “Stakeholders, Steering Committee, and Focus Group.”
1.4 THE STRUCTURE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN


1.5 THE APPROACH OF THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN

The Operational Guidelines (OG) states that “each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means” (OG, 2016, p. 21).

In other words, the MCP for “Palestine Land of Olives and Vines: Cultural Landscape Southern Jerusalem, Battir,” must be a document that guides the ongoing supervision of the WHP by the involved stakeholders.

The MCP sets out specific strategies and actions in order to ensure that future use, modifications, development or repair are compatible with the OUV of the property and its attributes.

Critical to this plan is a consideration of the site’s heritage and its value to the local community as well as visitors traveling from a distance. Thus, the MCP also specifies the unique significance of the WHP, identifies how that significance is vulnerable, and sets out strategies for long-term, sustainable retention of that significance and the site’s physical attributes.

In order to understand the current management process of the WHP, its conservation and valorization dynamics, and the options for the improvement of the management, a descriptive-analytic approach has been applied to gather and analyse qualitative and quantitative data on various aspects of the property.

Different sources of information have been used, including records, photos, reports, drawings, questionnaires, and in-depth interviews. Based on this approach, the MCP attempts to clarify the relationship between stakeholders for safeguarding and managing the WHP, and their individual strategies for the collective conservation and valorization of the property.

No single entity has the sole responsibility for the management of whole WHP Site management. Much of the World Heritage Property buffer zone and build up area falls under the responsibility of Battir Municipality, Hussan village council, and MoLG, while most of the land of the inscribed property is in private ownership, therefore it is managed by their owners and regulated by various public key players with different mandates including MoTA, MoLG, EQA and, MoA.

For this reason, the management necessarily has to be based on a participatory approach that
ensures the coordination and collaboration of all responsible agencies and involved stakeholders, which is elaborated in chapter six of the MCP. This approach involves all relevant stakeholders and actors in all phases of preparation, development, and implementation of the MCP. A value-driven approach that is consistent with Palestinian local conditions has also been developed and applied as a methodology for the preparation of the MCP.

In order to be in line with the UNESCO policies, the involvement of the local community and related stakeholders was one of the most important principles used for preparing the MCP. Several successful workshops and meetings with the local community were held. The aim of these meetings was to spread awareness and involve the local population in future planning tasks by identifying important concepts of sustainable planning, exchanging knowledge of main threats to the WHP, and seeking future solutions.

Fieldwork indicates that the WHP stakeholders are heterogeneous, with diverse interests and values. However, their collective input is a good representation of the breadth of community opinion, has been, and continues to be evaluated as a crucial dimension in managing, safeguarding, and valorizing the WHP.

Their input was used to identify the heritage values of the WHP to which they have unique relationships.

The stakeholders’ engagement also helps to identify the real needs and expectations of the local community and related institutions, as well as facilitate delineation of roles and gain insight into mandates and other influences that affect the protection of the WHP. Indeed, working with stakeholders was an opportunity to share information; increase stakeholder commitment; engender collective responsibility; and gain their knowledge, consent, and support for actions that will protect and enhance the property’s heritage values, authenticity, and integrity.

1.6 DOCUMENTATION AND DATA SOURCE

1.6.1 Previous Research
Preparation of this Management and Conservation Plan has relied on data gathered from previous studies and reports, including that which was collected for the nomination file, which included maps, reports, photos, and records. Additional required data was then collected from other institutions, researchers, libraries, websites, and through fieldwork, questionnaires, and social media.

Previous research reports and studies carried out on the property have been gathered and consulted, as follows:

- Cultural Landscape in Palestine: Battir Region as a Case Study, MoTA, 2006, Palestine (Annex 1).

1.6.2 Questionnaires
A visitor questionnaire was prepared in both English and Arabic and distributed to WHP tourists. The questionnaire was designed to provide the planning team with tourist statistics and demographic data. The questionnaires were distributed to tourists from January to April 2017, and subsequently analyzed to get more accurate information about the current touristic situation and services. More information related to the questionnaires is provided in Appendices 3 & 4.

1.6.3 Discussion Issues in Social Media
Facebook was used to engage local community in the SWOT analysis of the WHP and identifying its heritage values. This process was conducted through
uploading questionnaires for two months, the results were used in assessment and analysis phase.

1.6.4 Technical Interviews

In-person interviews were undertaken with farmers, women and men, housekeepers, and tourist guides and operators, with an aim of exploring different perspectives on various socioeconomic aspects associated with the WHP. These in-person interviews, which are a proven effective field research method, enable the MCP preparation team to strengthen their understanding of the interest conflict among the various stakeholders interests.
PART 1: 
THE PROPERTY, ITS VALUES AND 
ATTRIBUTES

CHAPTER TWO: 
IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY, 
SIGNIFICANCE, AND PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES
2.1 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

2.1.1 The Property

The World Heritage Property, “Land of Olives and Vines: Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir,” is located in the central West Bank, approximately 7 kilometers southwest of Jerusalem and 6.4 kilometers west of Bethlehem. The site is situated on the western side of the mountain range that runs parallel to the Mediterranean coast. It stretches from Beit Jala, west of Bethlehem (approximately 900 meters above sea level) to the Armistice Line, or Green Line (approximately 500 meters above sea level), which divides Israel from the West Bank.

The World Heritage Property is situated within the following geographic coordinates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The WHP Area/Core Zone</th>
<th>The Buffer Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1 Latitude 31°44’2.369”N Longitude 35°8’2.897”E</td>
<td>B1 Latitude 31°44’2.79”N Longitude 35°8’0.495”E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 Latitude 31°43’50.094”N Longitude 35°8’35.287”E</td>
<td>B2 Latitude 31°43’42.443”N Longitude 35°8’15.407”E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3 Latitude 31°42’34.684”N Longitude 35°8’55.333”E</td>
<td>B3 Latitude 31°44’6.457”N Longitude 35°8’49.019”E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 Latitude 31°43’11.144”N Longitude 35°9’52.982”E</td>
<td>B4 Latitude 31°43’18.526”N Longitude 35°10’1.697”E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5 Latitude 31°42’20.79”N Longitude 35°10’7.086”E</td>
<td>B5 Latitude 31°43’3.239”N Longitude 35°10’31.851”E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6 Latitude 31°42’16.414”N Longitude 35°9’27.088”E</td>
<td>B6 Latitude 31°42’13.894”N Longitude 35°9’33.295”E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7 Latitude 31°42’34.524”N Longitude 35°8’51.634”E</td>
<td>B7 Latitude 31°42’9.409”N Longitude 35°9’23.914”E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1 The WHP Geographic Coordinates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area in Hectares of the WHP Core and Buffer Zones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area of inscribed property: 481 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of proposed buffer zone: 631 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area owned by the people of Battir: 133 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area: 1112 ha.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maps of the World Heritage Property
The inscribed area includes traditional footpaths starting from Wadi Al-Makhrour and heading towards the villages of Battir and Hussan, which are used by the farmers and inhabitants of Battir to connect them with their land. It also includes the various human settlements that developed around the many springs that dot the slopes of the mountains, starting from at least the Bronze Age and continuing until today. These settlements have contributed to the creation of a unique cultural landscape composed of agricultural terraces that are supported by dry-stone walls, agricultural watchtowers (manatir or qusoor), olive oil presses, ancient irrigation pools to collect the water flowing from the springs, ancient irrigation canals, and the remains of human settlements (khirab).

2.1.2 The Buffer Zone
The buffer zone surrounds the property on its northern, southern, and western sides, while a 10-metre-wide strip of land separates the core zone from the Armistice Line. Lands owned by the inhabitants of Battir, which are still cultivated and irrigated today using the ancient irrigation pool and canal system, lie beyond the Armistice Line, and form an essential extension of the agricultural terraces of the village. The village of Battir lies along the eastern side of the core zone, and is also a part of the buffer zone.

The lands that compose the buffer zone extend to the neighboring villages: the village of Al-Walaja to the northeast, the towns of Beit Jala and Al-Khader.

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2 “The Green Line” is the name given to the 1949 Armistice Lines that constituted the de facto borders of pre-1967 Israel (“Glossary: Israel,” Library of Congress Country Studies)
3 Defined as the combined total of private land owned by the people of Battir, which they continue to cultivate and harvest, and that falls beyond the Armistice Line (i.e., the 1967 borders that separate Palestine from Israel).
to the east, and the village of Hussan to the south.\(^4\)
The buffer zone land is made up of areas of collapsed terraces and the remains of agricultural watchtowers as well as segments of continuous landscape that lies within the inhabited areas. In some areas, steep natural rock formations have prevented the adaptation of the landscape for agricultural purposes. These rocks, combined with the surrounding cultural terraces form a breath-taking landscape that reveals the effort exerted in constructing the terraces. The majority of abandoned terraces still contain some olive trees amid wild plants that have grown in the area.

### 2.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WHP

Located south of Jerusalem, along the valleys connecting Beit Jala and Hussan village with Battir, lie a rich abundance of ancient agricultural terraces, the majority of which are still in use to this day. These terraces bear witness to thousands of years of human activity centered primarily in the area surrounding the springs that dot these slopes. In Battir, around the springs and along the ancient roads winding about the valley, one can find a wealth of cultural heritage remains.

Supported by archaeological excavations (Dagan, 2010), it has been determined that human settlements in the WHP area, which developed around the springs, date back to at least the Bronze Age and perhaps earlier. Throughout the area’s long and vibrant history, these settlements contributed to the creation of a unique agricultural landscape comprised of terraces supported by dry-stone walls, agricultural watch towers, olive oil presses, ancient irrigation pools that collect water flowing from the springs, ancient irrigation canals, and other human settlement remains (Sayej, 1999, p. 206).

The construction and continuous use of the ancient irrigation system, especially the pools\(^5\) (i.e., water reservoirs) at the outskirts of the village of Battir and Hussan demonstrate an important milestone in the development of agriculture in the area, in addition to the dependence of the local community on agriculture. In fact, the continuous use of the pools and the water canals from ancient times until today is evidence of the continuous habitation since Roman times.

The unique local water distribution system used by the eight main families of Battir is a testament to an ancient democratic distribution system that delivers water to the terraced agricultural land based on a simple mathematical calculation and a clear time-managed rotation scheme (Olayan, 2017). Farmers continue to tirelessly plant their land with seasonal and aromatic herbs, to take care of the vines and fruit trees, and to irrigate their land using the Roman pools and irrigation channels, in addition to taking care of their olive trees: the symbols of peace.

The location of the village of Battir along the Roman route that connected the city of Gaza with Jerusalem, contributed to strengthening the relationship between the village of Battir and the city of Jerusalem. Battir’s close connection to the city of Jerusalem, which is just 7 kilometers to the north, was further reinforced during the Ottoman period by the construction of a train station in the valley as a part of the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway in the late nineteenth century.

Olive trees are characteristic and deeply symbolic features in the Palestinian cultural landscape (Soumi, 2010, p. 15). While they grow elsewhere, they are highly representative of the identity and character of the Palestinian landscape and of the ways that people?

\(^4\) For more details see The WHP Borders Map in Appendix 7

\(^5\) The ancient pools are known in the narrative tradition as the Roman pools, dating them back to Roman times.
have worked the land throughout history. Olive trees are good examples of the adaptability of nature and ability of humans to make productive use of steep and uneven terrain. The integration of the trees in the ancient agricultural terraces is clear evidence of the continuous human settlement in the region for thousands of years. Furthermore, the trees feature strongly, in narrative and metaphor, in the Quran, in the Bible, and in the teachings of Jesus in particular. The olive is a symbol of peace and is, therefore, a particularly apposite tree. Ancient olive trees along the Wadi Al- Makhrour and throughout Battir as well as the Battir olive presses provide additional attestation of the long history of this holy tree in the area (Soumi, 2010, p. 92).

2.2.1 Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage Property is a major piece of the Palestinian cultural landscape, representing the adaptation of the deep valley system for agricultural purposes as a result of a strong supply of water. The complex irrigation system developed for this water supply has led to the creation of dry wall terraces which may have been utilized since antiquity. The terraces set the basis for a strong agricultural presence, through the cultivation of olives and vegetables. Today, the area is still used for the same purposes.

The water distribution system used by the families of Battir is a testament to an ancient egalitarian distribution system that delivers water to the terraced agricultural land based on a simple mathematical calculation and a clear time-managed rotation scheme.
2.2.2 Criteria under which the WHP Was Inscribed

(iv) Be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape, which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The dry-stone architecture represents an outstanding example of a landscape that illustrates the development of human settlements near water sources and the adaptation of the land for agriculture. The village of Battir, which developed on the outskirts of this cultural landscape, and was inhabited by farmers who worked and still work the land, attests to the sustainability of this system and to its continuation over at least a millennia. The traditional system of irrigated terraces is an outstanding example of technological expertise, which constitutes an integral part of the cultural landscape.

(v) Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

The strategic location of Battir and the availability of springs were two major factors that attracted people to settle in the area and adapt its steep landscape into arable land. The property is an outstanding example of traditional land-use, which is representative of many centuries of culture and human interaction with the environment. The agricultural practices that were used to create this living landscape reflect one of the oldest farming methods known to humankind and are an important source of livelihood for local community.

2.2.3 Statement of Integrity

The Battir cultural landscape encompasses ancient terraces, archaeological sites, rock-cut tombs, agricultural towers, and most importantly an intact water system which is represented by a collection pool, channels, and other unique features. The families of Battir, who depend on this water system, guarantee the integrity of the traditional system.

2.2.4 Statement of Authenticity

The irrigation system and the cultivation have hardly changed with time. There is a high level of authenticity in this cultural landscape, however, this value would be damaged or destroyed severely by the construction of a separation barrier. Such a barrier would destroy a significant part of the physical landscape and terrace system, as well as many of the site’s unique visual features, due to the construction of a service road on both sides of the barrier.
2.2.5 Other Heritage Values of the WHP

“Overview background identification of cultural landscape values is difficult and a real challenge for scholars and professionals in the cultural heritage arena. The multiplicity of values attributed to cultural heritage properties stems from varied views and perspectives of individuals, professionals, and communities” (Demas, 2002, p. 34). The Burra Charter places cultural heritage values into five categories: aesthetic, historic, scientific, social, and political (Charter, 2000).

The main aim of this step is to figure out a workable approach used to assess the cultural and natural values of the cultural landscape of the WHP, accepted by most of the stakeholders and compatible with the sites. To achieve this aim, the issue of significance assessment has been examined through the “value-based approach” methodology in order to get benefits from similar international experiences, such as Burra Charter, and English Heritage.

To identify other values of the WHP, two workshops were held and attended by the local community, focus group, and various stakeholders. Moreover, social media was used as a consultative mechanism to engage the maximum number of local community members. A questionnaire was posted on the Facebook page of the Battir Municipality to allow local inhabitants to interact and participate in identifying values of the property as they conceived them. Consequently, tangible and intangible values were identified, including intangible values, socio-cultural, educational, aesthetic, and natural values that are described subsequently.

Intangible Heritage Values

a. Traditional Water Distribution system among the Farmers

Distributing water to the land below the pools, or the lower water (al-mayyah al-tahta)

Irrigation of the terraces located below the level of the collecting pools depends on measuring the height of the water, and is called a “share” (al-ma’dud). It is used in both the pools that collect the water of Ain Jama’ and Ain Al-Balad in Battir. A measuring stick (al-’adad) is crafted from a bush, locally called al-sakron, that grows around the pool. The measuring stick is segmented into equal divisions using lycium thorns, according to the number of shares of each family. The share depends on the amount of water that runs from the pool without a time limit. The available amount is gauged by the stick and is then divided between the family members.6

At approximately 6 o’clock each morning, an old farmer from Battir village goes down into the ancient

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6 The division is based on the amount of the land that a person has, accordingly one person in the family may receive one share while the other receives three shares.
pool to measure the height of the water gathered during the night using *al-maḍūd*. He holds the *maḍūd* vertically in his hand so that its bottom end touches the highest corner of an old flat square tile fixed in the middle of the pool and he puts two thistles on the stick exactly to the point marking the surface of water. Then he leaves the pool and starts to divide the height of water by the number of his family’s shares. The distribution of the shares among the family members also rotates in order to avoid differences in the volume created by the irregular shape of the walls of the pools and the time of the day the farmer receives his share(s).

As soon as the old man finishes the preparation of *al-maḍūd*, he stores it in a safe place known to other farmers and out of reach of children. He goes off to his land to handle other field activities until his turn is due. The farmers in Battir can easily read *al-maḍūd* even if they were not the one to initially determine each family’s allotment and mark *al-maḍūd*. Collection of a share usually takes 30 to 50 minutes depending on the number of shares per day and the time of sunset, at which the pool is closed again to collect water for the next day.

The farmer who has the first turn irrigates his land with his share of the water from the pool in addition to the water that flows to the pool from the spring at Ain-Jama’, since the flowing water of Ain Al-Balad is used for irrigating the lands that are located between the spring and the pool. The farmer has to manage the time and the water in the pool, and use it as efficiently as possible before his time is over. In fact, if the water flow is stronger than necessary, it will harm the soil as well as the newly sown seeds. However, farmers are usually successfully in controlling the flow of water, adhering to the strict schedule, and ultimately irrigating their land. Further management of the water might include dividing the water into more than one sub-canal. Family members cooperate in irrigating their lands.

The second farmer will be waiting for his turn and control the water flow to determine when the first farmer’s share will end by measuring the water level in the pool with *al-maḍūd*, and will notify him more than once with a loud voice so that the first farmer can finish irrigating his or her plants. The farmers will occasionally face a water shortage, especially during the summer. If this happens, the first farmer may ask the second one to allow him some three to five extra minutes so he can water any withering plants.
in order to keep them alive. If for any reason a farmer is absent, another farmer will replace him. Farmers normally support each other, especially if they are relatives, but even if they are not. The people in Battir are accustomed to helping one another (ouneh).

The farmer who receives the last portion (e’kab el-birkeh, e’kab el-nhar, or taali el-har) is given an extra amount of water (nafal) to compensate him for the difference caused by the irregular shape of the pool. Hence, the farmer makes up for this loss with the nafal and an additional portion of time. Farmers prefer the last time slot since it allows them to irrigate their fields comfortably. Exactly at sunset, one person from the family whose turn is on the following day will be there waiting to close the pool when the sun sets at the Maghreb prayer time, so the pool can start collecting water for the next day.

Distributing the water to the lands located above the pool, the higher water (al-mayyah al-foukah)

Since Ein Al-Balad is located on a higher spot than the other pool, the irrigation of the terraces in between the spring and the pool depends on a timing system that, until the 1950s, was measured by observing a sun clock that was located near the spring. Today, it is measured by an electric clock.

To guarantee a fair distribution among the families, the lower and upper water of Ein Al-Balad is allocated on the same day, and the water of Ain Jama’ is on the day that follows. According to this system, the water is divided among all the village families, and each has their own day. Thus, it is said that a week lasts eight days (not seven) in Battir’s traditional irrigation system. Within the same family, the water is distributed according to the share system. Between sixteen and twenty-two shares are divided every day, and between 144 and 146 shares are distributed between the village families every eight days. For example, the Al-Botmah family’s share is one complete day from Ain al-Balad. On that day, the water is divided into eighteen shares (Tmeizeh, 2004).

b. Traditional Agricultural Practices (Olive groves, al-Mashakib, and the Four Seasons)

Local cultures in the region associate the practice of olive cultivation with their historical roots and Palestinian identity as a whole. The olive was domesticated during the Chalcolithic Period, and the history of olive oil production can be tracked back more than 5,000 years. The significance of olive cultivation transcends its mere economic and agricultural value, attested to by the fact that many contemporary traditional olive farmers of the area are motivated by sentimental and cultural reasons. Their ability to maintain their olive groves is regarded as a critical aspect of their quality of life, even in situations where their income is secured through other activities.

The cultivation of the olive tree involves low-density plantations that may occasionally be sown in an irregular pattern, low labor and material inputs, and a manual harvest. Most of the olive tree plantations are rain-fed along with other fruit, trees and some field crops and occupy extensive hilly and mountainous areas that are susceptible to soil erosion due to water runoff. Vines and other fruit trees, including apricots, almonds, and plums, are planted in the terraces near Battir and the Palestinian oak tree can be found amongst the olives in terraces that are more distant from the village. Individual families are typically responsible for managing the agricultural activities related to olive cultivation. The olives and oil produced are used predominately for self-consumption and for sale on the local market.

The present extension of land cultivated with olive trees in the WHP area is 223 hectares, which represents 28 percent of the total territory and 54 percent of the cultivated land. The prevailing variety of olive tree planted for productive purposes is locally known as the nabali or baladi, meaning “local.”

The majority of the olive trees in the area are very old; there are many monumental, multi-centenary olive groves scattered throughout the territory, often in close proximity to the historically developed areas. The local community refers to the ancient trees as “Roman Trees” (shajar romani), which attests to the deep roots of olive cultivation within the historical framework of the territory. In addition to the Wadi al- Makhrout, well-conserved multi-centenary olive groves are also situated on the hilltop and terraced land adjacent to the remains of Khirbet Battir.
The choice to plant olive trees away from the village, where there are more springs than in the Wadi al-Makhour, is due to two major factors. The first is that olive trees do not require year-round care, and thus frequent visits to the fields are not required. The second factor is that the olive trees do not require irrigation, so planting them away from the springs afforded the spring water for vegetables and other fruit trees that do need irrigation.

Although the terraces near the villages have a few scattered olive trees, they are mainly associated with other crops, including grapevines, fruit trees, seasonal vegetables, and herbs. Some citrus trees, mainly lemon trees, are also found in these fields, but they are planted for domestic use only. The majority of the cultivation near the terraces depends on irrigation. The ancient pools and the water canals are used during the dry season to irrigate the terraces, and the distribution of the water among the farmers follows a traditional system known as shares (al-ma’dud).

Canals are used to distribute water for irrigating small garden beds (mashakib). They are made using the local soil, and each measures approximately 1.5 meters by 2 meters. All the beds are linked by a canal that lies between them, and are separated from each other by borders made of soil. Al-mashakibs must be renewed and reshaped every season and occasionally should be maintained within the same season.

The irrigation system makes it possible for farmers to use their land during three seasons: summer, winter, and spring. Each season sees its own specialty vegetables like the Battiri Eggplant, which is named after the village. This well-known type of eggplant is considered a summer crop. Other vegetables, such as green beans, are winter crops and others are spring crops.

7 Such as apricot, almonds, and figs.
8 Such as cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumber, mint, and parsley.
The property is a source of pride for the local people of Battir and Hussan villages. Its social values include various tangible and intangible resources that are associated with cultural heritage sites, including political, identity, nationality, memorial, and religious values, among others (Randall Mason, 2000, p. 12). These values serve as educational tools for the local community, which reinforce their cultural identities; they help to build connections with their cultural heritage and empower the local community by continually strengthening that connection to and sense of pride in a rich culture that has existed since ancient times.

People who live in the WHP have an extensive oral history that includes traditional stories, songs, dances, traditional dress and traditional foods. Many of the old stories and songs are still passed down from generation to generation, as is the traditional style of dress, which is representative of the village and regional identity. In addition to the above mentioned intangible values and practices that are still found in the local society such as Al-Aona, the principle of helping others harvest olive crops or cultivate their land during different seasons or during weddings and different occasions.

Figure 2.9 The Ancient Pool and al-Mashakib, the Small Gardens, 1950
Historical Value
The strategic location of the property on the ancient road connecting Jerusalem with main coast cities, and the abundance of water resources have contributed to the creation of human settlements in the area since antiquity. Archaeological excavations and surveys revealed rich cultural heritage evidences that dates back to the Bronze Ages, Iron Age, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods. Archaeological Excavations in Khirbet Battir revealed artifacts that date back to different civilizations, especially to the Canaanite Period. This site is also associated by many scholars with biblical Bether, the last stronghold of Bar Kokhba in his revolt against the Romans in 135 BC.

The sustained interaction between humans and the local environment has contributed dramatically toward shaping the current cultural landscape of the WHP, including the agricultural terraces, irrigation system, archaeological sites, and other unique features.

Educational Value
The cultural landscape of the property includes a raw resource of scientific material that generates knowledge about the past, either through archaeological investigation, conservation interventions, building styles, education, and/or historic research (Randall Mason, 2000, p. 11).

This value is an essential part of the research associated with the site. It is considered a resource for furthering our understanding of ancient civilizations which have left their impression on the site. The old water distribution system, which is an important tradition for Battir’s inhabitants, is one of the most significant cultural practices within the WHP and merits further research.

The property is a rich research resource and requires further study to produce a more complete understanding of all cultural and natural features, including those features, which have previously been investigated. Past studies have focused on visible ancient features and structures, such as human settlement remains (Alkhirab), watchtowers, Limekilns, the irrigation system, ancient olive presses, and archaeological finds. Further archaeological investigations are required to bridge the shortage of scientific data. Importantly, this must be accomplished without incurring any loss of archaeological resources, which can be derived from non-invasive techniques such as geophysics and remote sensing.

Aesthetic Values
The WHP’s aesthetic value refers to the visual qualities of the site’s cultural heritage attributions. Otherwise translated as visibility, this value focuses on the property’s external appearance. The landscape in which the WHP lies is varied. It includes a series of valleys and hills with agricultural terraces spread throughout, as well as many water springs, pools and canals, which have produced over time a vibrant aesthetic experience. This value is particularly apparent in the WHP, especially in its northern and eastern areas where beautiful sceneries are abundant, including tranquil green landscape and wildlife. The west part of the WHP also has a beautiful landscape with groves of olive trees and agricultural terraces.
Natural Values
The availability of water springs and other natural resources in the area enriches the site’s biodiversity; a complex genetic ecosystem of unique flora and fauna has inhabited the area since antiquity. However, the transformation of the natural landscape into traditional agricultural terraces and water canals through history has negatively affected many floral species. The habitat originally classified as a Quercus calliprinos woodland on limestone, which is characterized by the domination of the oak species in companion with the Pistacia species, Arbutus and rachne, Crataegus aronia, and Rhamnus palaeestina species, in addition to many other tree species and other a companioned shrubs and perennials (EQA, 2017).

A survey of the area’s flora and fauna revealed that approximately 186 plant species occur in the area’s varied habitats. Some of these plants are recorded as frequent, rare, or very rare, while some are found to be recorded only 1-3 times in certain areas within Palestine, and were found in the WHP Area (ARIJ, 2005). Further details of this can be found in Annex 4.

From a natural geographic division, the WHP area belongs to what is referred to broadly as the Mountainous Area Region, and belongs to the subdivision referred to as the Central Palestinian Mountains area. A Cold Mediterranean Climate is prevailing in the WHP area, characterized by a mean annual rainfall of 500 to 550mm and a mean annual temperature of 16°C.
### 2.3 THE WHP VALUES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED ATTRIBUTES

The following table summarizes the WHP’s Outstanding Universal Value and other values, as well as the physical attributes that convey them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Values</th>
<th>OUV</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Attributes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Socio-cultural</strong></td>
<td>One of the major Palestinian cultural landscape strongly demonstrating</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>Agricultural Terraces dry-stone walls; Agricultural Watchtowers; Olive Groves; Traditional pathways; Springs, Collection water pool, and channels; A measuring stick (al-'adad); Traditional irrigation distribution system (¬al-ma’ādud) (process).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>developing the adaptation of sloppy mountains and deep valleys into</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Developing a system of agricultural terrain based on dry-stone walls and traditional agrarian practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural terrains.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Creating a significant irrigation system delivers water to the terraced agricultural land based on traditional water distribution system, simple mathematical calculation, and a clear time-managed rotation scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sense of pride in a rich culture that has existed since ancient times</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>Development of human settlements near water sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>embodied in the oral history that includes traditional stories, songs,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sense of pride in a rich culture that has existed since ancient times, embodied in the oral history that includes traditional stories, songs, dances, etc,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dances, etc,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Traditional dress, traditional food and the plaza of the village which is still used for wedding parties and other social occasions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hassan Mostafa as an exceptional person in the village of Battir</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hassan Mostafa as an exceptional person in the village of Battir according to what he did during 1950s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>according to what he did during 1950s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction of the main internal road of the village; Restoration of the irrigation system; And establishment of the first school in the village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establishment of flourishing human settlements dating back thousands</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>Establishment of flourishing human settlements dating back thousands of years that significantly contribute to the development of the current cultural landscape of the property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of years that significantly contribute to the development of the current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeological sites; Traditional houses, watchtowers, irrigation system, and agricultural terraces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cultural landscape of the property.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The last refuge of the second revolution against the Romans in 135 AD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The property is located along the main ancient road connecting the</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>The property is located along the main ancient road connecting the port city of Gaza, and Jaffa with Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>port city of Gaza, and Jaffa with Jerusalem.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Remains of a fortification wall at the Khirbet Battir dated back to the Roman Period.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Remains of the ancient Road and the railway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic/Archaeological</td>
<td></td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The site significantly flourished in the Roman and Byzantine periods.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Geological formation of the property made it suitable for water aquifer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A complex genetic ecosystem of unique flora and fauna has inhabited the area since antiquity.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fauna and flora within the WHP</td>
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<td>Fauna and flora within the WHP</td>
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<td>Springs; Groundwater; And streams.</td>
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<td>One of the five stations of The Jaffa-Jerusalem railway and the last stop before Jerusalem along railway.</td>
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<td>During the British Mandate Period, Battir was considered the vegetable basket of Jerusalem</td>
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<td>One of the main producers of lime in British Mandate Period</td>
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<td>The only Palestinian villagers who exercise their rights to use the lands they owned behind the Armistice Line</td>
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<td>Battir is a raw resource of scientific material that generates knowledge about the past.</td>
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<td>Distinctive scenery of rich cultural landscape consists of series of valleys and hills with agricultural terraces spread throughout, as well as many water springs, pools and canals, which have produced over time a vibrant aesthetic experience.</td>
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<td>The beauty of the jagged walls of the valley, unique geological formations.</td>
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<td>The panoramic views of the landscape throughout the WHP.</td>
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<td>Influence of Islamic civilization on historic buildings’ decoration and architectural style.</td>
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<td>The site’s biodiversity is very rich.</td>
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Table 2 The WHP Values and Their Associated Attributes
2.4 PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES WITHIN THE WHP

1. Rural Dry-Stone and Vernacular Architecture

The property’s landscape is typical to that of the Mediterranean region; that is, the terrain is rich in geological resources including stone, which is particularly abundant. Thus, traditional dry-stone architecture was extremely common, and gathering the stones had the added benefit of producing clean, tillable fields for agriculture. Due to the profusion of different varieties of stone, the local people relied on the material for constructing shelters, fences, and monuments, benefiting from each variety’s particular aesthetic, physical, and geological characteristics. In addition, they used these stone resources to re-form the rocky mountainous landscape, and adapt it for agricultural activities.

Being deeply rooted in traditional knowledge, dry-stone vernacular architecture represents the continuity and permanence of the culture and identity of many local rural landscapes. It is a testament to ancestral human activity that progressively modeled the dry-stone landscape type. This landscape is endowed with aesthetic, historic, symbolic, and ecological value, which far exceeds its original practical function. Visible signs of the dynamic relationship between humans and the physical terrain are deeply integrated into the landscape and serve as a living marker of the history and development of the traditional construction techniques implemented in the area. The dry-stone vernacular architecture represents one of the most evident elements of the process of adapting the landscape, embodying the materialization of centuries of ability, knowledge, and modes of production. The construction and maintenance of dry-stone landscapes require a substantial amount of collective cooperation, called al-'Aona in Palestine. This was an essential component of the local agrarian systems and landscapes and of the socio-cultural processes, and played a key role in the processes of socialization and of transmission of knowledge and abilities.

2. Agricultural Terraces and Olive Groves

“The Olive Tree is a synonym for Palestine, and Palestine is a synonym for the Olive Tree. They exist together. They have formed a confluence for eternity, and they still maintain the passion between them. Never a morning or an evening passes, unless the Olive Tree or ‘the Tree of Light’ as it is called by the Palestinians, is a part of it in one way or another.” (Gouni, 2010, p. 15).
Extensive olive groves expand from the Wadi al-Makhrour northwest towards the Wadi Es-Sikkeh. The man-made terraces that surround the valley are planted mainly with olive trees, some of which are many centuries old. This adaptation of the geological features has created a stunning landscape. Similar terraces have defined the central hills of Palestine from antiquity to the present. Research on the origins of terraced agriculture suggests that the system dates back to the Chalcolithic Period, c. 4500 to 3000 BC (Sayej, 1999, p. 203). This time saw the emergence of advanced farming villages and an intensification of agriculture, evidenced by developments in cultivation of fruits, including olives and grapes. Archaeological excavations in both Palestine and Egypt indicate that wine and olive oil were among the most important goods imported from Palestine to Egypt, and the trade of valuable Canaanite goods from relatively small Palestinian villages was registered in documents from the Early Dynastic Period of the Pharaohs around 3000 BC (Soumi, 2010, p. 28).

The emergence of planned farming communities, including houses with courtyards, which appeared in central Palestine during the Chalcolithic period, marks the beginning of traditional village patterns similar to those seen in Palestinian villages today. Moreover, the location of Battir along the route that connected central Palestine—namely Jerusalem—with the Mediterranean coast, as well as the availability of springs, contributed to the development of such terraces (Sayej, 1999, p. 203).

Thousands of meters of dry-stone walls compose the terraces that extend along the valley of the Wadi al-Makhrour towards Battir. The dry-stone walls (sensael) create a flat earthen surface known as habaleh, and thus prevent soil erosion and preserve soil moisture. The traditional cultivation of olive trees is an essential component in the historical development of the cultural landscape systems in this area, and has multiple functions and meanings at the environmental, agricultural, socio-cultural, and symbolic levels.
Figure 2.14 Map of Dry-Stone Walls throughout the Property

Figure 2.15 Terraces Built with Dry-Stone Walls along the Property
The historical significance of this cultural landscape is integrated into the system of dry-stone terrace walls that characterize this rough terrain. The olive groves extend from the valley toward the mountains. Thousands of stones were used in the construction of the walls, which contain the soil, restructure the hillside into levels, and facilitate olive tree farming. The stream flowing through the valley is bordered by similar stones to minimize soil erosion during the rainy season (Olayan, 2017). Just before Battir, a massive rock has been placed in the valley near the stream. The rock has a hole in one of its sides and appears to be a rock tomb or an old water cistern that has been turned 90 degrees due to natural forces.

Different types of dry-stone walls and terraces were identified in the Al-Makhour and Hussan area. They are associated with the adaptation, systemization, and maintenance of the land for agriculture. The terraces include (1) very simple structures that require a minimum degree of modification of the land. They are identified locally as the stone piles called rujum, and are made from rocks and stones cleared from the land. (2) There are also dry-stone division walls (senasel) that are built in flat areas and on smooth slopes to divide plots, mark land ownership, and prevent animals from entering plantations. (3) A third kind of structure is the pocket terrace (midwath), which is a short circular or semi-circular wall built around a single tree. They are often associated with olive tree cultivation. (4) Finally, there are the complex systems of dry and irrigated terraces and dry-stone retaining walls, called habale. These terraces are deeply integrated into the local geomorphology and contain essential primary and secondary functions, including the consolidation of slopes, prevention of soil erosion, optimization of rainwater drainage, adaptation of slopes for agricultural uses, and reduction of rainwater runoff.

Due to the rough, steep geomorphology prevailing in the territory, most of the agricultural land is densely terraced. The most pervasive type of dry-stone structure is therefore the contoured retaining terraces, often associated with olive tree cultivation, and the cross-channel terraces (khalle), which are built at the intersection of hill slopes and cultivated with different types of plantations, including irrigated terraces.

According to scholars, the amount of labor involved in the construction of dry-stone walls and agricultural terraces suggests that it would require extensive planning and organization (Sayej, 1999, p. 202). Even today, it takes extensive collective work by landowners to reconstruct and maintain these terraces after each rainy season. Spring is the time when the farmers gather to work on maintaining their terraces and plowing the land. Olive picking season is usually during October and November of each year. During this time, all family members work together to pick the olives manually, and press them to produce olive oil. Finally, the olive trees are pruned after the picking season is over.

3. Agricultural watchtowers

The route from the Wadi al-Makhour towards Battir is dotted with agricultural watchtowers referred to as manatir, which literally translates to "the house of the guard" (natour). They were also known locally as palaces (qussur), since they stand alone in the middle of the field overlooking the cultivated lands (Amiri, 2003, p. 16). About 256 manatir were registered along this route. The majority of the agricultural watchtowers were constructed at an intermediate level of the property, and are used by the farmers to watch over their fields during the harvest season. Accordingly, the agricultural watchtowers spread away from the village (Al-Houdalieh, et al., 2013).
The placement of these watchtowers was determined by factors unique to the local terrain. They were typically built on higher sections of the agricultural fields on the hill slope that faces the prevailing wind and receives optimal sunlight in order to ensure ventilation and to protect the family from various natural and man-made threats. Watchtowers were usually placed near a water source, either a spring or water cistern, and positioned near their neighbors to support social contact, while still maintaining familial privacy.

 Agricultural watchtowers were linked with the origins of agriculture itself: the cultivation of grain and, somewhat later, the domestication of fruit trees. The function of the agricultural watchtowers was multifaceted: (1) to watch over the cultivated land and protect it from animals and thieves; (2) to provide a cool, shaded place for field workers and herdsman during hot summer days; (3) to protect people from wild animals and inclement weather; and (4) to afford their owners an alternate, temporary living space away from their homes. Watchtowers were also used as a permanent residence for farm laborers employed by wealthy landlords to supervise and cultivate their lands throughout the year. Just outside the building, there was often a flat rock, called the rukbah or derdas that was used for crushing small amounts of olives or other fruits.

Although many agricultural watchtowers are presumed to have existed from late prehistory into the early historical periods (the ninth to the fourth millennia BC), modern archaeological and survey work throughout Palestine has documented very few of these. The absence of these hypothetical constructions, however, would be due to the repeated, heavy use of the land throughout antiquity, not to mention natural forces including earthquakes and the erosion of organic building materials. Three different types of watchtowers are found in the Wadi al- Makhour. These included the round-corbelled stone towers, the rectangular or squared quadrilateral watchtowers built of dressed ashlar stones, and the solid stone heaps with oval or rounded shapes.
Solid Stone Heaps

The simplest techniques were used in the construction of solid stone heaps. A single ring or rectangle of large stones was used to outline the outer boundary and then the entire internal area was filled solid with stones of various sizes; these were mostly gathered from the site in the course of preparing the land for cultivation. This technique was repeated until the required height was reached. The external profile of these structures featured a slight inward slant proceeding upward, to ensure the necessary stability of the heap. The roof of the stone heaps was made of a wood called taqwis taken from the cut branches of cypresses and local shrubs, called natish. The roof was temporary and was replaced and repaired with new branches seasonally, while the old branches were carried to the village and used as wood in the house during the winter.

Round Watchtowers

To construct the round watchtowers, the farmers would first clear and level the building spot. The circular layout of the construction was usually marked with two concentric rings of earth, 1 to 1.5 meters apart, taking into account the placement and dimensions of the external entrance. Then, a bottom course of large stones was laid on top of each of the two earthen rings, outlining the inner and outer faces of the watchtower’s foundation. In the next step, the space between the two rings of large stones was filled with medium and small-size stones mixed earth and other debris, all collected from the adjacent area. The two faces of this rubble-core wall (external and internal) were built of different sizes of un-worked fieldstone laid in an irregular pattern. Proceeding upward toward the ground-floor roof level, a slight inward slant was introduced to the outer face of the wall, in order to achieve greater stability and to minimize the weight borne by the foundation.

The internal faces of the same walls likewise incline gradually toward the center. However, the incline began approximately 0.8 to 1.0 meter above floor level, ultimately forming a vaulted (or domed) ceiling. This ordinarily had the shape of a barrel-vault or cross vault. Once the ground floor was complete and roofed, this procedure could continue upward in the same manner until reaching the desired number of floors and overall height.
Quadrilateral Watchtowers
The building process for quadrilateral watchtowers began with leveling the building spot, which involved cutting off the protrusions of the bedrock surface or filling the cavities with stones and mortar. Then the boundaries of the external and internal walls were marked off with two thick cords. The walls usually had a thickness of 0.80 to 1 meter. Quantities of water were then poured over the foundation areas in order to fully clean them of any accumulations of dirt that might interrupt the seal between the bedrock and the mortared stone foundation. Next, a layer of mortar was laid down, and on top of it a layer of ashlar stones around the perimeter, which defined the inner and outer wall faces and the placement and size of the external entrance.

Once the lowest courses were laid, the space in between was filled with a combination of earth, lime, ash, and straw, and small to medium stones, all collected from the surrounding area. Proceeding upward, this method was repeated course by course until the ground floor roof. The exterior wall face was built with a relatively vertical profile while, like the round-type watchtowers, the internal wall inclined gradually inward beginning at a height of 0.8 to 1.0 meter above the ground. At the top, the inclined wall face formed a vaulted ceiling, which ordinarily had the shape of a barrel-vault or cross vault, or in a few cases, a hemisphere or dome. To build subsequent storeys, the workers would follow the same steps, proceeding upward, until the building was completed. The masonry of these structures (in contrast to the round towers above) consists of large, well cut and sometimes nicely dressed ashlar stones, laid in regular, horizontal courses, but which sometimes varied in height from one course to the next, dictated mostly by the availability of stone material.

4. Limekilns
Limekilns were structures developed to produce lime for use as mortar, a technique that dates back to around 12,000 BC (Kingery et al., 1988). The kilns were used for burning limestone (calcium carbonate), which produces quicklime (calcium oxide). Mixed with water, the quicklime produces slaked lime (calcium hydroxide). Quicklime was used in the production of mortar for building purposes, and sometimes, as during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in the production of lime for agricultural purposes (Oates, 2008). A common feature of early kilns was an egg-shaped burning chamber constructed using hard stone, with an air inlet at the base.

Limekilns exist throughout the WHP, and are called qabbara or lattoun (Sarhan, 1989). Until few decades ago, the limekilns remained in use by the local population to produce lime mortar, locally called khallale, from local lithic and soil materials. The traditional kilns were built near the site where the lime was acquired, and were left to collapse after use or dismantled. The material produced was used locally by the villagers to build and maintain village houses (Awinaha, 2017).
In the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, a permanent limekiln structure is located a short distance from the village of Battir on the western slope of Wadi Ni‘meh. The structure is rectangular, almost 8 meters high, and made of brick, stone, and mortar. The limekiln has a lower furnace and a higher room surmounted by a vault roof with a central hole.

The location of the limekiln near the Jaffa-Battir railroad, and the relatively small size of the village of Battir indicate that this particular limekiln was constructed for mass production, most probably for the nearby city of Jerusalem, and perhaps for other major cities located along the railway’s route. It remained in use until the late 1940s (Awinaha, 2017), when it was abandoned as a consequence of the Israeli-Arab War and the introduction of concrete for construction.

5. Ancient Olive Presses

The production of olive oil required specialized and highly complex techniques. Methods to extract oil from cultivated olive fruit before mechanically operated machines included three techniques. The first method was known as al-baddudiyeh, which was usually used by farmers to meet their needs for olive oil, in case they ran out of their stored oil before the olive-picking season. Al-baddudiyeh is done by placing the olives on dry thorns available from the fields in a pit made of rocks. The olives were crushed in the hole using a stone. The produced paste was placed on a straw plate and covered with another; this was repeated in many layers that were then pressed with a heavy stone (Soumi, 2010). The oil would drip into another pit that was also made of stone. An olive press of this type was found during excavations conducted in 2007 at the bottom of the village of Battir (Dagan, 2010).

The second method was known as zeit tfah (overflowing oil), and it was a way of producing oil manually with one’s bare hands and without tools. Oil prepared using this method was devoted to lighting lamps in shrines and holy places and for lighting oil lamps during religious festivals.

The third method was implemented using the traditional olive press (al-bedd). This is the press that was used before the introduction of the mechanical press. It was usually made of two stones. The first was shaped like a huge dish, and was laid on the ground, and the other had a cylindrical shape with a square opening at its centre and was placed vertically inside the first stone. A wooden staff was placed at the opening and was rotated around the circumference of the first stone either by a mule or wheel. The crushed olives, which became a paste, were placed in hay baskets and squeezed to extract the oil.

Not surprisingly, in a cultural landscape that depended on the cultivation of olives for the production of olive oil, many traditional olive presses of the third type were found among the fields and near the watchtowers of the WHP, as it was easier for the farmers to press the olives in the fields than move them to another location. In addition, the remains of two olive presses were found in Khirbet Bardama and Khirbet Al-Qasr.
6. Agricultural Fields Surrounding the Village:
The People of Battir and Their Paradise

In his description of the train route from Jaffa to Jerusalem, Fredrick Jones Bliss wrote “…but at last the train enters Wayd Es-Surar (the Valley of Sorek) and, following its many windings, slowly mounts to the station of Bittir set in a garden of brilliant green and surrounded by terraced slopes rich with vines…” (Bliss, 1902).

The village of Battir has long been known as “the vegetable basket of Jerusalem.” The village’s produce is renowned for its quality among nearby towns and villages. The eggplants of Battir (beitinjan batttir) are considered to be the most famous and most flavorful in the area. The close proximity of the agricultural terraces to the village, and the availability of water within the boundaries of the village, have both enabled Battir to develop an agricultural system for growing vegetables that is wholly dependent on irrigation. In the past, most of Battir’s vegetables were sold in Jerusalem, however this situation changed after the village was completely cut off from Jerusalem after the 1967 War. Still, even today Battir is considered one of the major sources of vegetables for Bethlehem with crops grown in the terraces year-round.

Although the terraces near the village have a few scattered olive trees, they are mainly associated with other crops, including grapevines, fruit trees, seasonal vegetables, and herbs. Some citrus trees, mainly lemon trees, are also found in these fields, but they are planted for domestic use only. The majority of the cultivation near the terraces depends on irrigation.

The ancient pools and the water canals are used during the dry season to irrigate the terraces, and the distribution of the water among the farmers follows a traditional system known as shares (al-ma’dud).

Many of the dry-stone agricultural terraces are planted with a historical collection of crops that include olive trees, vineyards, and fruit trees. The dry field agricultural terraces, which are planted with these trees, are called karm. Each karm is divided into three different parts that is each reserved for a different plant. The front section, el-rahma, is planted with vines; the middle section, raselmahna, is planted with fig trees; and the third section, which is adjacent to the upper dry stone retaining wall (al-zarb) is planted with olive trees. Enclosed walls, vineyards, and fruit orchards also serve as windbreaks to protect the vegetables. Pocket terraces around single trees and stone piles may also be found in the agricultural lands, mainly around the terraces.

Figure 2.22 Agricultural Terraces Near Battir Village

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10 Another spelling of Battir that was common during the British Mandate.
11 Such as apricot, almonds, and figs.
12 Such as cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumber, mint, and parsley.
13 Karm is literally translated as ‘vineyard’ which indicates that many grape vines existed in the area.
Although the irrigation system can be implemented by any person, young or old, man or woman, the presence of an expert is necessary to monitor measurement and equal distribution of the resource.

The agricultural terraces in Battir are called “the paradises” (al-jinan). Each villager feels a sense of attachment to his or her “jinan,” especially the irrigated terraces. The villagers are committed to looking after their lands and maintaining their shares system, even if they do not use the land very frequently. This can be attributed to a cultural sentiment that the land and water were very important to their ancestors, and that this connection should be respected and passed on to new generations. This moral commitment has, in turn, given rise to their contribution to renovate and maintain the ancient pools, canals, and fountains.

7. The Irrigation System

The traditional irrigation system continues to be used by the inhabitants of Battir, and despite its ancient roots, remains an effective way of nourishing their crops. According to the farmers themselves, the system satisfies their needs and continues to be implemented without modifications. It is simple and easy, and it has being passed down from father to son from one generation to the next throughout Battir’s long history.

This traditional irrigation system has been used by the people of Battir for centuries, presumably stretching back to Roman times. The ancient rock-hewn canals are still in use today and stand out in the uniquely built terraces. This water distribution system that has been used for millennia depends on dividing the water that is collected in a retaining pool during the night into equal portions among the local families and their individual members. Battir has eight families that benefit from the system, and each family has the right to use the water for one full day on an eight-day rotation schedule.

This unique water system is the result of an ancient democratic distribution system that delivers water to the terraced agricultural land based on a simple mathematical calculation and a clear time-managed rotation scheme. The system is described by the farmers as just and fair, and satisfies the needs of the landowners. These two facts have contributed to its sustainability throughout the years.

The village of Battir contains more than ten water springs (Tmeizeh, 2004). The most important springs are Ain Al-Balad and Ain Jama’. The water from these springs is collected in two pools and used to irrigate the surrounding man-made dry-stone terraces. The water from these two fountains and the irrigation system, including the canals and pools, are public property and are managed by Battir’s eight main families and serve inhabitants (Tmeizeh, 2004).

The village of Hussan contains more than twelve springs. The main spring is Ein El- Haweyyeh and the remaining springs are located west of the village along the Spring Valley (Wadi Al-‘Aion), which is comprised of nine springs spread along it: EinAlsukhuna, Ein Elerq, Ein Alnamous, Ein Kadra, Ein Alaros, Ein Ateah, Ein Alateqa, Ein Albaqe’a, and Ein Alamoud (Al-balad). The springs have their own irrigation traditions, customs and water distribution system, including canals and pools, and are managed by Hussan’s farmers.

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14 Although the irrigation system can be implemented by any person, young or old, man or woman, the presence of an expert is necessary to monitor measurement and equal distribution of the resource.
8. Human Settlement Remains (al-Khirab)

The availability of mountain springs, and the location of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir along the ancient road that connected Jerusalem with the southern part of Palestine, encouraged several civilizations to settle in the area. Archaeological remains, locally known as khirab, from different periods (Canaanite, Roman, Byzantine, Mamluk, and Ottoman) attest to the presence of different layers of civilizations and of different phases of domestication of the local landscape. Seven khirab have been found within the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir property, the majority of which are located near the modern village of Battir.

*Khirbet Battir/Al-Youhud* is located on top of the hill to the south of Battir village and is considered the most important khirbeh in the property. It is known by the local inhabitants as Al-Khirbeh. Khirbet al-Youhud, which translates to “the Ruins of the Jews,” has been associated by some scholars with Betar, the site where the Romans suppressed Simon Bar Kokhba in 135 AD. Extensive excavations have been carried out at the site since the beginning of the twentieth century, and the site has been highlighted by many scholars. Recent excavations at Al-Khirbeh revealed remains that date back to the Middle Bronze Age (Canaanite Period).

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16 Scholars include V. Guerri, C. Clermont-Ganneau, J. Germer-Durand, E. Zickermann, W.D. Carroll, A. Alt, A. Schulten, A. Reifenberg, S. Yeivin, and others.
There are no visible ruins on the hill that is mostly planted with olives and other summer trees. Remains of a Roman Citadel/Castle that served as a garrison for the village, and a horse stable that is known as Al-Boubarieh, are located behind it. Ancient tombs located to the east of the khirbeh are located in the side of the mountain that overlooks the village of Battir.

The location of Khirbet Battir along the ancient Roman road that connected the city of Jerusalem with Gaza and Caesarea, the availability of springs, and the location of the fortress on the mountaintop were three determining factors in the formation of the settlement. The defensive structure proposes that the settlement was built along the road to provide protection for the route.

Khirbet Al-Rukba is located in the northeast part of the village, overlooking Wadi Battir. It is a Roman station along the ancient route. Remains of an olive press can be found on the site. Khirbet Al-Rukba provides evidence of the importance of the WHP as a main station along the Roman road, and to the extensive cultivation of olives in the area.

Khirbet Bardama (Bardamout) is located in the northeast of the village, overlooking Wadi Al-Makhrou, near a water spring that bears the same name. The khirbeh is surrounded by olive groves and is believed to date to the Roman Period. Some archaeological remains still exist at the site.

Khirbet Al-Harith (Al-Hariq) is located to the southwest of Khirbet Bardama. The site contains Roman, Islamic, and Mamluk remains.

Other khirab are located on the periphery of the village and in the surrounding areas, including Khirbet Al-Qasr, which is located in the southern part of the property; Khirbet Um Al-Shukaif, located in Khallet Battir; and Khirbet Karzaleh, located near Al-Hariq. Khirbet Um ElQal’a is located in the western part of the WHP and includes ancient remains that date back to the Persian Period and the Hellenistic Period.

Archaeological excavations were conducted in Khirbet Battir only, and mainly aimed to connect the site with the biblical Betar. The remaining sites were identified by the British Survey of Western Palestine, documented, and described in the texts of various travelers and pilgrims who visited the area. The location of sites in areas designated “Area C” by the Israelis is the main obstacle in conducting excavations and surveys of the khirab.

17 Building used to house the horses and carriages of travellers, as well as provide them with a place to rest.
9. The Historic Buildings

The village of Battir likely shifted to its current location sometime during the Mamluk Period. During that time, the inhabitants restored houses, stables, and storerooms from the Roman Period and the village was categorized as a waqif for the benefit of Al-Athemieh School in Jerusalem (Sharia Court Registrar, 1530-1531). The majority of the traditional buildings in Battir date back to the late Ottoman Period. These buildings incorporate the development of Roman-Byzantine techniques and reflect different phases in the village’s history.
The cross-arched room structure, a Roman-Byzantine technique introduced in Palestine in the first century BC, continued to be used and refined into the early twentieth century (Hadid, 2000). Other Roman-Byzantine techniques used over a similar time span and visible in the village include the arch and the vault, and the use of limestone (cociopesto) concrete, mortar, and plaster. A wide range of shapes and details are apparent on numerous buildings, which is each a unique creation that reflect the owner’s personal preferences and are made according to the capabilities of the builder (ibid).

Roman building techniques continued to be used until the arrival of the steam railway and the introduction of the steel beam and Portland cement. The opening of the Jaffa-Jerusalem line meant that, by 1910, the new I-Beam and Portland cement techniques had largely replaced all lime-based plaster, mortar, and Roman concrete construction (Schaffer, 2001).

Various traditional buildings have been renovated by the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Bethlehem in cooperation with the village council of Battir for use by local community organizations. These buildings include Dar Samara, the surrounding neighborhood of the Seven Widows Quarter, Dar Al Bader, and Dar Abu Hassan. These three buildings have been adapted to serve as a guesthouse (Dar Abu Hassan), a visitors’ information centre (Dar Al-Bader), and the Battir Women Cooperative Society (Dar Samara).

In addition, several architectural features can be found in the village of Battir, and are strongly related to the narrative history of the village. Maqam Abu Zeid is a shrine located to the north of the ancient pool of Ain Al-Balad and is dedicated to Abu Zeid’s wife, Rabiea Al-Adawieh. It is believed, according to the local narrative, that the shrine belongs to the mystic Abu Zeid Al-Bustami and that Saladin, the Ayyubid leader, gave orders to build this shrine and many others after Palestine’s liberation from the crusaders, in order to give the country an Islamic appearance.

Other sites include Maqam Al-Sheikh Khattab, a shrine constructed for Al-Sheikh Khattab who is thought to be one of those who first settled in the village, and Al-Zawyeh Mosque, an Islamic endowment that dates back to the Ottoman Period and served as a place of worship for some Islamic mystics. Part of the mosque can still be found in the school near the ancient pool Ein Al-Balad.

The plaza (Al-Saha) is an important feature in the urban composition of the village, and is considered a gathering space for the men of the village. Several sahat are located throughout the village, each within the quarter of the family that uses it. Al-Sahat serve as gathering places for men, where they spend their evenings, solve disputes, and discuss various matters, and are also collective spaces for celebrating various occasions.
Figure 2.29 Villagers Celebrating a Social Occasion in al-Saha, 1952 (Battir Cultural Center)
PART 2:
THE ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHAPTER THREE:
PHYSICAL CONDITION ASSESSMENT
3.1 PREVIOUS STUDIES IN THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

Based on the assessment of available data, a shortage of information on various spheres was identified; it was strikingly apparent that the extant data is inadequate and further research and fieldwork is required in order to develop a comprehensive MCP for the WHP. Additional required data includes the following:
1. Data on the current state of conservation of the physical attributes of the WHP
2. Data on the current environmental status and biodiversity of the WHP
3. Data on the landscape units and land-use.
4. Data on tourism (e.g., visitation counts and tourist demographics).

A detailed analysis of the cultural landscape’s components and the relationship between the human settlements and the environment is an essential step in the ongoing planning process. This analysis is based on data collected through principal field surveys carried out to guarantee more accurate maps and information regarding the WHP’s components. However, conducting a comprehensive field survey requires significant time and additional human and financial resources, which are beyond the scope of the MCP preparation project.

3.2 PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES ASSESSMENT

A critical aim of the MCP and this assessment is to secure and safeguard the physical attributes that carry the WHP’s OUV and determine their state of conservation. Assessment of the physical attributes was achieved through an extensive field survey of the prevailing physical features of the landscape with the aim of collecting additional data needed to better understanding the features’ state of conservation and consequently develop a comprehensive database to determine conservation objectives, strategies, and actions.

The field survey used an orthogonal aerial photo (2016) of the WHP—divided into A3 sheets on scale 1:2000—a GPS device, and a digital camera. Collected data was processed by the GIS software to develop thematic maps that help identify the physical attributes and develop conservation and protection objectives, strategies, and actions. The following attributes were targeted by the field survey:
1. Agricultural terraces and dry-stone walls.
2. Agricultural watchtowers (qaser).
3. Traditional irrigation system (e.g., pools, springs, canals).
4. Historical buildings.
5. Archaeological remains (e.g., archeological sites [khirab], caves, limekilns, olive presses, tombs).

3.2.1 State of Conservation of Terraces and Dry-Stone Walls

The state of conservation of the dry-stone walls and agricultural terraces was explored through a primary field survey, focusing on their current physical condition, deterioration agents, required conservation interventions, types of cultivated crops, land cover, and typology of landscape (e.g., topography, age, nature ecological aesthetic qualities).

The survey concluded that the dry-stone walls of WHP are deteriorating due to numerous human and natural factors. The human factors are defined as follows:
- Land-use patterns of direct surroundings.
- Inadequate infrastructure.
- Lack of maintenance of cultural and natural qualities of the cultural landscape.
- Incompatibility of restoration materials.
- Decline of agricultural land due to the lack of official attention given to rural areas.
- Lack of essential medical and educational facilities.
- Decline of the socioeconomic status and lack of economic opportunities available for the local community caused by emigration from the countryside to the cities.
The natural factors include the effects of rainfall, soil erosion, vegetation, wind, fluctuation in temperature, climate change, forestation, and wildlife activities—especially when the wildlife build their homes inside the dry-stone walls.

The field survey mapped more than 600,000 meters of dry-stone walls, however a detailed assessment of this large area could not be completed within the limited time allotted for the preparation of the MCP. The primary assessment shows the following results:

**Dry Stone Walls State of Conservation**

- Poor (10%-30%): 27%
- Fair (31%-45%): 28%
- Good (45%-80%): 45%

**Figure 3.1** State of Conservation of the Dry-stone Walls.

The state of conservation of the dry-stone walls is segmented into three categories: poor (10-30%) fair (31-45%), and good (45-80%). This rating system was built according to the percentage of the deterioration of the dry-stone walls as well as to their current structural status. According to the above chart, the dry-stone walls that comprise the irrigated terraces and those situated close to the urban fabrics are in a good state of conservation, while those in the Wadi al-Makour, and Khallet Battir areas have deteriorated and are in need of rehabilitation, repair, and strengthening. In spite of the seasonal maintenance of agricultural terraces and their dry-stone walls by some farmers, and the several rehabilitation projects carried out in several parts of the WHP; the agricultural terraces and dry-stone walls require further efforts to reach an acceptable level of conservation.

**Figure 3.2** Map of the State of Conservation of the Dry-stone Walls.

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18 For further details see Appendix 5, “Physical Attributes Assessment.”
3.2.2 State of Conservation of the Watchtowers (Qaser)

The field survey examined the state of conservation of the watchtowers through a data sheet designed to facilitate their assessment. The sheet helped to collect data on the current condition of each watchtower, including its type, building material composition, number of floors, required interventions, and its overall state of conservation.

The field survey succeeded in identifying and assessing more than 212 watchtowers out of a total of 256 in the WHP. Most of the watchtowers have deteriorated and suffer from a critical state of conservation due to several human and natural factors. Because the watchtowers are located in “Area C,” farmers are frequently denied permits to rehabilitate the towers from the Israeli authorities. Since 1995, only minor maintenance work has been allowed. Farmers are only able to use existing structures as repairing collapsed roofs is prohibited. Some of the watchtowers that are in good condition continue to be used by their owners during the cultivation season as a refuge from the heat, but the majority of towers are collapsing and interventions aimed at improving their condition result in severe penalties. For example, the Israeli authorities demolished two watchtowers that were located in the Wadi al-Makhrour because their owners rehabilitated them. Some owners succeed in restoring their watchtowers; however, they often use incompatible materials such as concrete and plastic materials, and adding incompatible parts to the original structure, which accelerate the deterioration process.

Natural factors include rainfall, erosion, vegetation, and wind also accelerate the deterioration process. 37% of the assessed watchtowers in the Wadi al-Makhrour are restored and 24% of them are seasonally inhabited. However, 63% of the assessed towers are located near the village of Battir are damaged and in need of rehabilitation and repair interventions. The survey also shows that 79% of the watchtowers consist of one floor, 19% of two floors, and 2% of three floors.

The state of conservation of the watchtowers is segmented into five categories: very poor (10-15%), poor (15-30%), fair (30-45%), good (45-60%), and very good (60-80%). These categories are based on percentage values which were used to assess and describe the physical and structural condition of the watchtowers relative to the ideal condition. Results of the survey demonstrate that 42% of the assessed watchtowers are in very poor and poor condition, while 29% are in a fair condition, and about one third (18% and 11%) are in a good and very good condition, as shown in Figure 3.4 below.
Given the fact that the majority of watchtowers (94%) were built from natural field stones and traditional materials, and that most of restored towers were improperly restored using incompatible materials (e.g., concrete, plastic, and steel), it is essential to develop several conservation projects to document and conserve the watchtowers in line with the international conservation best practices.20

20 For further details see Appendix 5 “Physical Attributes Assessment.”
3.2.3 State of Conservation of the Irrigation System (Pools, Canals, and Springs)

World Heritage Property villagers rely on springs to irrigate their crops. The maintenance of the traditional irrigation system, which includes water pools, springs, and canals, is conducted by the farmers and landowners. Its state of conservation was examined by an in-depth field survey that focused on its current condition, materials, and required conservation intervention.

In general, the irrigation system in the WHP is deteriorating due to several human and natural factors. The human factor is comprised of the lack of an adequate sewage system that is responsible for spring water contamination, the lack of proper maintenance of the irrigation system, the neglect of agricultural terraces, and the use of incompatible restoration materials. The natural factor consists of the effects of vegetation, erosion, fluctuation in temperature, and climate change.

The field survey assessed the five main springs and their irrigation system within the WHP: Ein El-Balad, Ein Jama’, Ein El-Haweyyeh, Ein Emdan, and Wadi Al-‘Aion (Valley of Springs) located close to the Hussan village.

Ein El-Balad Spring

The existence of this spring was the major factor that attracted people to settle in the area and adapt its steep landscape into arable land. It is the main spring in the WHP, connected with a complex irrigation system of open canals that feed Al-Janain terraces.

The first rehabilitation intervention for Ein El-Balad took place in the 1950s, when Hassan Mostaf and Battir’s inhabitants restored the spring and built the stone walls, which remain today. In the 1990s, the Palestinian Authority restored the agricultural canals and irrigation system. In 2017, MoTA, in approximately 1260 meters of traditional canals located between the spring and the Roman Pool. The state of conservation of the remaining canals below the pool are in fair condition as they are still in use and are regularly maintained by farmers and landowners. However, the canals located in the bottom of the valley near the railway track have deteriorated due to the lack of regular use and maintenance. These traditional canals are in need of urgent repair and rehabilitation interventions.

Results of the survey demonstrate that 48% of the assessed canals are in poor condition and need urgent interventions, while 16% are in a fair condition, and more than one third (36%) are in a good condition, as shown in Figure 3.7 below.

![Figure 3.7 Map of the Ein El-Balad State of Conservation Indicated](image-url)
**Ein Jama' Spring**

Ein Jama' is the second most important spring in the WHP. Its water collects into an ancient reservoir and flows through ancient man-made canals to irrigate crops. It has its own traditional irrigation system complementing the irrigation system and water rights of Ein al Balad. However, the irrigation system of this spring suffers from a critical state of conservation. Results of the field survey show that more than 70% of the irrigation canals are badly deteriorated and only 30% are currently in use and in a good state of conservation. Essentially, the irrigation system of Ein Jama' suffers from deterioration and the impact of restoration attempts using incompatible materials (e.g., plastic or metal pipes). The deterioration of the irrigation system of Ein Jama' has adversely affected the cultivation of the adjacent agricultural terraces and caused farmers to abandon them.

**Ein El-Haweyyeh Spring**

Then Ein El-Haweyyeh Spring is located north of the village of Hussan within the core zone of the WHP. It is owned by the residents of Hussan and considered a place of leisure for them. The spring flows out of the rock face under the ancient part of the village. The spring water is collected in a pool built at the foot of the rock. Irrigation canals leading out from the pool carry water to the various terraces. The irrigation system and agricultural terraces have preserved their authenticity and integrity and remain in an overall good state of conservation. Ein El-Haweyyeh has its own traditions, customs and system of water distribution among farmers who have the right to use the spring water. This system is not recorded and passed over orally from one generation to another. However, such customs and systems are strong enough to ensure the sustainability of its irrigation system.

Results of the survey demonstrate that 43% of the assessed canals are in poor condition and need urgent interventions, while 24% are in a fair condition, and about one third (33%) are in a good condition.
Figure 3.9 Ein El-Haweeyeh Pool

Figure 3.10 Map of the El-Haweeyeh Spring State of Conservation Indicated
Wadi Al-'Aion (Valley of Springs)

Wadi Al-'Aion is located west of Hussan village. The Valley is named for its nine springs: the Ein-Alsukhuna, Ein Elerq, Ein Alnamous, Ein Kadra, Ein Alaros, Ein Ateah, Ein Alateqa, Ein Albaqe'a, and Ein Alamoud (Al-balad). All of these springs were assessed during the field survey. More than two thirds of the irrigation canals were damaged through a restoration project that took place during the 1990s due to the use of incompatible materials (e.g., plastic or metal pipes). The remaining canals suffer from critical state of conservation.

3.2.4 State of Conservation of the Historical Buildings

The majority of historical buildings in Battir date back to the late Ottoman Period. These buildings incorporate the development of Roman-Byzantine techniques and reflect different phases in the village’s history. The cross-arched room structure, a Roman-Byzantine technique introduced in Palestine in the first century BC, continued to be developed and was used until the beginning of the twentieth century (Hadid, 2000). Traditional building techniques continued to be used until the arrival of the steam railway and the introduction of the steel beam and Portland cement. The new I-beam and Portland cement techniques had largely replaced all lime-based plaster, mortar, and Roman concrete construction (Schaffer, 2001).

The overall state of conservation of the WHP’s historical buildings was assessed and documented through a number of visits and interviews with their residents and owners. A database was established for each building. Data acquired includes basic information about the buildings’ ownership, history, construction materials, number of floors, rooms, and state of conservation for each unit. The overarching aim of this step was to gather information about the condition of these buildings via firsthand field observation and experience to determine appropriate conservation strategies.

Approximately 181 buildings were assessed in the Old Core, 49% of which are used as residences; 24% are used as schools, clinics, cultural centers, restaurants,
or commercial stores; and 27% are abandoned and unusable due to their critical state of conservation and are in urgent need of conservation interventions.

The field survey identified three main types of buildings in the Old Core:

1. Traditional stone structures with vaulted ceilings and bearing stone walls, built before and during the Ottoman Period.

2. Flat slab structures that consist of I-beams with concrete, built during the time of the British Mandate.

3. Reinforced concrete structures with concrete walls and columns (concrete blocks) built after the British Mandate.

Field surveys and data analysis show that, of the total 181 buildings, 54 out were built during the Ottoman Period, 30 were built during the British Mandate, and more than half (52%) of the existing buildings were constructed after 1948, which collectively influence the general morphology of the old town (International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC), 2018).

Figure 3.12: Current Use of the Historical Buildings in the Old Core

Figure 3.13: Eras of Construction of the Historical Buildings in the Old Core
State of Conservation of Historical Buildings

Assessment of data gathered shows that 41% of historical buildings have been rehabilitated, with structural integrity of the walls and an original roofing structure; 34% are in a fair state of conservation; and 23% are in poor condition, with several problems related to their façades including algae and vegetation growth, dampness, peeling, discoloration, and graffiti, as well as their architectural components including windows, doors, balconies, external wiring, gutters and down drains. These features are in need of conservation interventions. The interior of these buildings also suffers from dampness, peeling of the stones, and inadequate wiring and sanitary systems.21

Figure 3.14 State of Conservation of Historical Buildings

Figure 3.15 Map of the WHP Historical Buildings with their Physical Condition Indicated

21 For more information, see Annex 5, “Battir Old Core Sustainable Study.”
3.2.5 State of Conservation of Archaeological Remains (Khirab, Caves, Tombs, and Paths)

The availability of springs throughout the mountain range and the location of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir along the ancient road that connected Jerusalem with the southern part of Palestine encouraged several civilizations to settle in the area. Archaeological remains, locally known as khirab, from various periods (Canaanite, Roman, Byzantine, Mamluk, and Ottoman) attest to the presence of different historical layers of human civilizations and of different phases of domestication of the local landscape.

Seven archaeological sites are found within the WHP, the majority of which are located near the modern village. The state of conservation of archaeological sites require in-depth studies, research, and documentation to form a comprehensive understanding and, consequently, conserve the sites. Such intensive work is beyond the scope of this MCP; however, primary data was collected to assess the overall state of conservation of these sites in order to establish conservation targets for the objectives, strategies, and actions of the MCP for future interventions. In general, the archaeological sites are in a poor state of conservation as most of them are located in “Area C” under the control of the Israeli occupation forces.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE ASSESSMENT

3.3.1 Environmental Field Assessment

The natural availability of water springs and other environmental resources in the area has enriched the property with a complex and diverse array of faunal and floral habitats. However, throughout human history, activities that transformed parts of the natural landscape into agricultural terraces have, at times, adversely affected many species of fauna and flora. A primary environmental assessment was executed in the WHP by the EQA team to determine the main environmental features of the land, including topography, geology, soil, hydrogeology and spring discharge, and biodiversity of flora and fauna. Results of this study show that the WHP’s ecosystem faces many threats, including the following:

1. The separation and annexation wall and its adverse impact on the WHP, including:
   a. Fragmentation of the habitats and ecosystems.
   b. Destruction of niches and habitats of mammals.
   c. Threatening many species of wildlife.
   d. Prevention of wildlife populations from reproducing.
   e. Scarcity of prey, food, shelter, and mating opportunities.
   f. Annexation of the most important water resources, primarily the springs, which are critical for wildlife, including birds.
   g. Destruction of vegetation cover in the WHP area, which will endanger and threaten many plant species.

2. Overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture practices.
3. Chemical and plastics pollution of agricultural terraces.
4. Pollution of springs by sewage wastewater, which contaminates the spring water and affects the wildlife.
5. Soil erosion due to a combination of deep slopes and high precipitation without a drainage system.
6. Invasive species displacement of native species, which severely affect agricultural products.
7. Erosion of genetic resources, mainly the native species and adaptive agricultural varieties of fruits and vegetables.
8. Decreasing of endemic plants and animal species in their natural habitats.
9. Abandonment of traditional agricultural practices in the WHP because the income earned from agriculture is insufficient to support the family.

3.3.2 Assessment of Landscape Cover

The assessment of landscape cover is an approach used to analyse landscape features based on the identification and description of diverse and recognisable patterns of elements that occur consistently within a particular landscape. The CORINE Land Cover nomenclature is an international system that divides landscapes into 44 land cover classes, grouped into three levels. It is used to identify the land cover and land-use of the WHP, and subsequently protect and preserve its various features and qualities.

22 For more information, see Annex 4 “Battir as an Environmental Significant Eco-System.” Report prepared by EQA.
as well as help monitor urban development and expansion, ensuring that the physical attributes of the OUV are not jeopardized by uncontrolled land-use and urban expansion. According to this system, the land cover and land-use within the WHP are classified as follows:

**First Level**

The first level of the CORINE system classifies the World Heritage Property (Core Zone, Buffer Zone, and lands owned by the inhabitants of Battir) into three categories: artificial surfaces, agricultural areas, and forests. These areas are displayed in the following map and their area cover (in hectares) is summarized in Table 3 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Area (Hectares)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial Surfaces</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Areas</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1245</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 1
Second Level

The second level of the CORINE classification system identifies seven categories within the WHP (Core Zone, Buffer Zone, and lands owned by the inhabitants of Battir): heterogeneous crops, forests, urban fabric, mine and dump, permanent crops, arable land, and open spaces with little vegetation. These areas are displayed in the following map and their area cover (in hectares) is summarized in Table 4 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Area (Hectares)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heterogeneous Crops</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Fabric</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>10.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine, Dump</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Crops</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>51.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arable Land</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Spaces with Little Vegetation</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>29.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1245</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 2

Figure 3.17 Map of CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 2
**Third Level**

The third level consists of eleven categories identified within the WHP: complex cultivation, coniferous forest areas (pine trees), continuous urban fabric (Colonies), continuous urban fabric (surfaces), military camps, mineral extraction sites and construction sites, non-irrigated arable land areas, olive groves, permanently irrigated lands, sparsely vegetated areas, and vineyards. These areas are displayed in the following map and their area cover (in hectares) is summarized in Table 5 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Area (Hectares)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complex Cultivation</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coniferous Forest Areas (Pine Tree)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Urban Fabric (Colonies)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Urban Fabric (Surfaces)</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>9.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Camps</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Extraction Sites &amp; Construction Sites</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Irrigated Arable Land Areas</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive Groves</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>51.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Irrigated Lands</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparsely Vegetated Areas</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>29.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vineyards</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1245</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 5* CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 3

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Figure 3.18 Map of CORINE Classification of Land Cover, Level 1

23 Colonies is a sub-category used to describe the illegal Israeli settlements in the WHP.
The preceding maps and tables indicate that 55% of the WHP is agricultural land. This underscores the need to dedicate more efforts to defining practical conservation and protection measures, which will ultimately be used to safeguard the natural landscape. Moreover, this assessment indicates that effective measures are also needed to regulate urban expansion in the Buffer Zone.

**Urban Encroachment**

According to the field survey and the maps produced depicting the WHP’s developed areas, it is clear that one of the most serious threats to the property is increased urban expansion. The result of the survey shows that about 43% of the existing buildings are in the Buffer Zone, while just 2% are in the Core Zone, and about 53% are located in the surrounding villages adjacent to the Buffer Zone. These rates are acceptable within the WHP. However, the WHP is threatened by future urban development and there are serious concerns related to the quality of new building construction because there are no laws or bylaws regulating urban planning within the WHP.

Objectives and strategies are developed by the MCP to mitigate this problem caused by unorganized urban development, such as enacting bylaws, land use zoning, and guidelines for managing the quality and quantity of the urban development.
3.4 TOURISM DYNAMICS OF THE WHP ASSESSMENT

3.4.1 Introduction

After the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, it instantly became one of the important tourism destinations in Palestine. Its significant natural and cultural heritage makes it an indispensable destination for inbound (foreign) and domestic tourists alike. The number of visitors has significantly increased since its inscription: during the late 2000s, the site received approximately 1500 visitors annually, but in 2016, it received approximately 150,000, and in 2017 it received approximately 250,000 (Bader, 2017). However, the tourism industry within the WHP suffers from several deficiencies. Its infrastructure is not equipped to receive this increased number of visitors. Therefore, it shall be sustainably developed and holistically managed to ensure that the property’s heritage qualities are well preserved and its economic impact enhances the quality of life of the local residents.

To effectively manage tourism growth in the WHP while conserving its values, further empirical research is needed to acquire more accurate information on tourism activities relevant to the WHP. An on-site tourists’ survey was conducted for four months, January to April 2017, geared toward exploring several diameters and variables that severely affect the site and tourism assets and trying to answer numerous questions on various dimensions, including the demographic profile of tourists (e.g., place of origin), their interests (e.g., what tourism products attract them to visit the WHP), what mode of travel they used to access the WHP, whether or not interpretation messages were conveyed, and more. The data gathered shapes a fundamental picture of the tourism industry in the WHP by which proactive conservation and valorization policies for the WHP can be developed, and which will lead to the enhancement of the fragile economic status of the local community.

The sample size of the survey was 185 tourist respondents. However, the percentage of domestic tourists was proportionately higher than inbound visitors: the results of the survey indicate that a total of 77% of respondents were domestic tourists and 23% were inbound tourists. These results are relatively consistent with the statistical data from the year 2016, obtained from the Battir Eco-Museum, with slight differences. It shows that in 2016, there were 7,579 visitors to the WHP through the Eco-Museum, 24% of which were international and 76% were domestic; while in 2017, 13,219 visitors came to the WHP through the Eco-Museum, 21% of which were international.

![Origin of WHP Visitors](image)

**Figure 3.20** Origin of Visitors to the WHP

24 For more information, see Appendix 3, “Tourism Dynamics of the WHP Assessment.”
The results of the survey demonstrate that tourists from 12 foreign nationalities visited the WHP throughout the time that the survey was conducted. As shown in Figure 3.21 below, 68% of inbound tourists came from four countries, namely France, Germany, the United States of America, and Japan. Approximately 41% of respondents were French, the highest percentage of any country, followed by Germans (12%), Americans (7%), and Japanese (7%), while the remainder (33%) represented eight mostly European nationalities.

![Figure 3.21 Nationality of Inbound Visitors to the WHP](image)

The results of the survey also demonstrate data about visitor characteristics, information on tourism packages, the state of conservation and presentation of WHP features, and tourist expectations about the WHP. For more information, see Appendix 3, “Tourism Dynamics of the WHP Assessment.”

3.4.2 Budgets and Financial Resources
According to the assessment of the WHP’s tourism sector, there are insufficient funds allocated toward enhancing the cultural heritage sites in the WHP and their related tourist facilities. There is no budget allocated for the management and conservation of the WHP. MoTA, the official responsible entity for the property, has a limited budget that is largely used to cover staff salaries and overhead expenses. However, independent project development budgets are neither eligible to enhance cultural heritage sites and their tourist related facilities nor adequate to supply needed equipment, printed informational/promotional materials, and marketing and/or outreach programs. The development budgets allocated for the WHP are mostly dependent on international donors, in particular, Italy and Japan. However, this sort of funding is temporary and non-renewable in nature, and is thus insufficient to develop and sustain the WHP and its tourist related facilities.

3.4.3 Key Tourism Stakeholders in the WHP
Tourism stakeholders are various, heterogeneous, and span multiple sectors. They include a public sector governmental channel represented by the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities; a non-governmental channel, represented by local and national NGOs; and a private sector tourism-enterprise channel, represented by private businesspeople. However, WHP related institutions lack practical participatory strategies and mechanisms to regulate and align collectively their efforts to develop improved tourist-related facilities within the WHP.

3.4.4 Infrastructure, Facilities, and Services
Although the WHP is rich in its tourist and cultural heritage resources, it lacks appropriate tourism infrastructure services required to receive tourists and/or to meet their visit expectations, such as well-preserved and clearly presented heritage values of the WHP, accommodation at reasonable prices, local souvenirs to take home, etc. The existing tourist facilities and services are inefficient, taking into account the availability of the space and location of various services. These shortcomings discourage tourists from traveling to the WHP and make enjoyment of
exploring, walking, shopping, and dining in Battir. Therefore, most tourists to the WHP are day-trippers, visiting for just a short time. They depart from tourism buses and remain in the WHP for one to two hours, and then return back to Jerusalem or Bethlehem, which have preferable services, environmental and street maintenance, and night markets.

Hence, the WHP is losing business and employment opportunities that would otherwise generate tourism revenue. To overcome this loss, tourism infrastructure should be carefully designed and improved to make the WHP an enjoyable place for tourists; projects focusing on beautification of the village, development of streets with appropriate walkways, construction of museums, open fruit and vegetable markets, etc. should be prioritized. These services are primary tasks required to make the WHP a delightful tourist experience and generate more economic revenue for the local community.

MoTA and the Battir Municipality shall work together to implement projects that enhance the tourist facilities and services and undertake several cultural activities and handicrafts exhibitions. However, such activities might not be successful in attracting a considerable number of overnight inbound tourists, as they are bound by Israeli tourist packages and they may only be able to visit the WHP for a few hours. Thus, as described above, in spite of its exceptional cultural value and tourism potential, the quality and quantity of tourism infrastructure and related services is insufficient for attracting overnight visitors to the WHP and/or compete with other well equipped destinations in the Holy Land, particularly Jerusalem which is abundant in tourism facilities and other tourism-related assets, including a strong sense of pedestrian safety, night markets, night clubs and more. Consequently, most tourists visit the WHP for only a few hours, and then move on to other destinations. If the tourism industry is to be enhanced in the WHP, significant efforts should be undertaken toward building a durable tourism infrastructure catering to various types of tourists.

3.4.6 Accessibility
The property is located close to the main road that connects Jerusalem with Bethlehem and Hebron. Although there is a public transportation line linking the village of Battir with Bethlehem, it is inappropriate and difficult for visitor to understand and use. Taxis are considered the main means of transportation in Battir, and there are about 20 taxies in the village, in addition to two buses.

The Israeli occupation forces sometimes restrict movement in and out of the WHP, making the mobility and accessibility of people and tourists difficult and preventing tour vehicles from passing through. Recently, the Battir Municipality, in cooperation with MoTA and CCHP posted directional road signs for the main features of the WHP at the entrance of the village and along its main street. The majority of paved roads in the village lack basic public safety requirements and need rehabilitation. The WHP is also still lacking a proper tourism information centre to guide and provide tourists with appropriate maps and promotional materials.

3.4.7 Handicraft Sector
As indicated in the results of tourists’ survey, there is a high demand to buy WHP souvenirs and local handicrafts. This sector has grown rapidly in Battir. Many women work to produce local souvenirs that embody the local identity of the WHP including embroidery, pottery, basketry, glassworks, shell, olive woodworks, and some food products.

3.4.8 Tourism Promotion of the WHP
The available promotional means and materials in the WHP are poor and insufficient to promote its cultural and natural values internationally and locally due to a lack of experience and financial resources. These materials sometimes are heterogeneous in their nature and have a poor context and design quality.

The existing materials remain below acceptable standards. They use archaeological data to market tourist facilities and products sporadically and without adhering to any scientific criterion or coordination
with MoTA. It does not reach the required level for attracting visitors or creating appealing tourist packages that would encourage tourists to visit and experience the WHP.

### 3.4.9 Hiking Trail

The hiking trail extends from Beit Jala through the Makhrour valley to Battir’s Old Core. It is approximately 7 km in length, and takes about 25 to three hours to walk from one end to the other. Residents of Beit Jala own the land on which the northern section of the trail was built, while residents of the Battir village own the remaining lands. It traverses the valley’s beautiful landscape, passing olive groves, vineyards and geological formations. Along the trail, hikers explore a variety of natural plants, trees, natural rock slopes and wildlife, as well as many cultural heritage sites and features, including ancient tombs, traditional architecture, watchtowers, agricultural terraces, irrigation systems, water pools, and the railway which runs through the village, transporting passengers from Jerusalem to Jafa.

In 2009, the hiking trail was designed by a UNESCO-led project in the area, and implemented by the PMSP project with an aim of improving the facilities, enhancing the experience of visitors, and promoting the site while attracting more visitors to the village of Battir.

However, the trail suffers from several deficiencies including poor maintenance, damaged orientation signs, and poor safety measures. Thus, it is severely in need of a new, clear signage system along the route, benches, shaded rest places, and to have the dump yards along the trail cleaned and removed. For example, the Ein Emdan area would serve as an excellent rest and barbeque area with all the necessary facilities, which would encourage visitors to experience the cultural landscape and spend more time in the area, and promote the site as a family-friendly tourist destination.

### 3.5 POTENTIAL AND CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE WHP

The following chart highlights the risk factors, their causes, impacts, and mitigation methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Factors</th>
<th>Major Causes Identified</th>
<th>Impact of factor</th>
<th>Management Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abandonment of Terraces and Afforestation</td>
<td>Threat of construction of the Separation Wall and land confiscation</td>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitation on access and action on watchtowers, dry stone walls, and irrigation system</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Part of the Core Zone</td>
<td>Mild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low economic benefits of the produced crops</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow and rough traditional pathways</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Buffer &amp; Core</td>
<td>Mild</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

25 For further details see the Hiking Trails Map in Appendix 7.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Buffer</th>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Severe</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismissing traditional knowledge of agrarian and water distribution system practices</td>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>Buffer &amp; Core</td>
<td>Gradual</td>
<td>Document the traditional practices, maintain the traditional knowledge and practice, and convey to future generations.</td>
<td>MoTA, MoA, MoC, local community, and related municipalities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragmentation of property and absence of a registry of the land ownership</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Set mechanism to solve fragmentation of land ownership. Prepare a registry of land ownership (cadaster).</td>
<td>MoLG and related municipalities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Mechanisms for Implementation of Law</td>
<td>Weakness of legal bidding tools</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Implementation of the new law endorsed April 2018 and implementation of the new management system developed by the MCP. Prepare the regulations to implement the newly approved law.</td>
<td>MOTA and other key stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate management response, potential lack of coordination and communication, unclear chain of command</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Set mechanism to solve fragmentation of land ownership. Prepare a registry of land ownership (cadaster).</td>
<td>MoLG and related municipalities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deterioration</td>
<td>Lack of baseline database and documentation</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Build comprehensive database.</td>
<td>MoTA and other related stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of trained professionals/technicians specializing in landscape conservation</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Implementation of capacity building programs. Enhance landscape conservation in national university curricula.</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of skilled and semi-skilled labor in landscape conservation</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Implementation of capacity building programs.</td>
<td>MoTA and MoA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of monitoring of the state of conservation of landscape attributes</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Set efficient monitoring system.</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of funding</td>
<td>Unpredictability of local investment, volatility of funding sources, donor-funded approach</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Set mechanisms to secure funds. Addressing funding according to a hierarchical action plan.</td>
<td>National authorities and all key stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The urban encroachment towards agricultural lands</td>
<td>Urban Master Plans are not yet endorsed</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Endorsement of the Master Plans.</td>
<td>MoLG and related municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laws and bylaws that regulate urban encroachment are not implemented</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Set effective bylaws to regulate urban development.</td>
<td>MoLG and related municipalities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 6: Potential and Current factors affected the WHP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential and Current factor</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Chapter three</th>
<th>Impact on WHP OUV and its attributes</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weak tourism infrastructure and services</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Develop tourist infrastructure within WHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of an interpretation center dedicated to the cultural landscape</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Establish interpretation center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of promotional and language interpretation materials</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Produce interpretation materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental problems: water pollution, soil erosion, and dump sites.</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Buffer</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Set in place adequate sewage system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of sufficient solid waste management system</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Core &amp; Buffer</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Set mechanisms and actions to prevent random dumps within the property</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Severity (Severe, Mild, Low)*

Severe: attached with high impact of the WHP OUV and its attributes.
Mild: attached with moderate impact of the WHP OUV and its attributes.
Low: attached with low impact of the WHP OUV and its attributes.
PART 2: 
THE ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHAPTER FOUR: 
OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT CONTEXTS ASSESSMENT
4.1 THE OWNERSHIP

No single body has sole responsibility for the entire WHP site in ownership or management. Much of the World Heritage Property is privately owned. The Core Zone is all private property. Part of the Buffer Zone is also private property, except for public buildings, which are owned by the community, and religious buildings, which are owned by the religious institutions. The largest part of the WHP is made up of agricultural terraces, which are used for the cultivation of crops, olive trees, vines, and fruit trees. All the terraces are owned by the inhabitants of the village of Battir, the town of Beit Jala, and the village of Hussan. The terraces are considered agricultural lands by the owners, i.e. families, who are committed to the lands’ cultivation. For ten percent of the owners, agriculture is their only source of income. For the remainder, it is their main source of income.

As shown in Figure 4.1, The Battir village owns about 65% of the WHP’s Core Zone, while the town of Beit Jala owns 31%, and the Hussan village owns 4%.

As shown in Figure 4.2, the Buffer Zone is divided between the three towns in addition to the Al-Walaja village and town of Al-Khader. More than two thirds of the Buffer Zone belongs to the Battir village, while 12% belong to Beit Jala, 15% to Hussan, 10% to Al-Walaja, and 4% to Al Khader.26

The traditional footpaths along the agricultural terraces are also privately owned by the owners of the adjacent fields. Still, by common norms, these paths are shared by the villagers and farmers who want to move from one place to the other or reach their lands. There are no restrictions on the use of these pathways. The main routes and roads are public property and are managed by the Municipality. It is the duty of the Municipality to conduct any works related to the maintenance and construction of the roads network. The pools, springs, and canals that distribute the water along the terraces in Battir are common property and are managed by the representatives (elders) of the eight families residing in Battir. During the dry season, the water from the ancient pools is given to a family once every eight days in a rotating order, thus, it is said that the week extends for eight days in Battir.

The pools, springs, and canals that distribute the irrigation water in Hussan’s terraces are managed by their owners (farmers); however the irrigation system they use is separate from the one used in Battir.

The mosques and shrines are Islamic endowments (waqif), and are managed by the Ministry of endowment and Religious Affairs (Al-Awqaf).

The archaeological sites are privately owned lands that are managed and supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities under the Law of Antiquities, number 51 (1966). According to the law, intervention is prohibited in archaeological sites until an excavation is conducted and a proper management plan for the site is prepared and adopted. However, because of the location of these archaeological sites

26 For more details see Adjacent community Boarders Map in Appendix 7.
in Area C, protection, archaeological investigations and conservation interventions are under the Israeli authorities’ responsibilities and subsequently MoTA is prohibited to conduct any intervention in these sites.

4.2 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN PALESTINE

Management of the cultural heritage properties in Palestine is conducted by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), in accordance with the Jordanian Law of Antiquities, number 51 (1966), which is the law currently in effect. According to this law, MoTA’s responsibilities include management and conservation of sites, setting protection policies, conducting excavations, raising public awareness, establishing museums, and cooperating with foreign archaeological institutions to ensure proper protection and management of the property (MoTA, 1966).

The law also gives the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and the Director of the Department of Antiquities a broad mandate, enabling them to interpret the law, identify archaeological sites, make the final decisions on disputed matters, make lists of archaeological sites and artefacts, and delineate the borders of archaeological sites.

MoTA consists of eight main directorates headed by an Assistant Deputy Minister. Each Palestinian governorate has a regional office staffed with employees who manage and protect the archaeological sites. However, MoTA’s current structure does not include a department to oversee World Heritage properties in Palestine. To overcome this weakness a special Directorate is being established in the MoTA’s new structure, which will be endorsed by the end of this year (2018).27

Figure 4.3 MoTA Institutional Framework

27 For more details see Chapter Six.
There are three essential, interdependent elements that comprise any primary heritage management system (UNESCO, 2013, p. 64):

1. **Legal Framework**: the mandate that empowers people and organizations to act. It defines what constitutes heritage and criteria for its conservation and management, usually by means of legislation.

2. **Institutional Framework**: the organizational set-up that sets out the operational structure and working methods that allows actions to be taken.

3. **Resources**: the human, financial and intellectual (e.g., traditional agricultural practices) inputs that create operational capacity and facilitate processes.

These three elements and the current planning framework for the WHP shall consider the following details.

### 4.3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK (LAWS, BYLAWS & REGULATIONS)

#### 4.3.1 Historical Background of the Cultural Heritage Legislation in Palestine

There is no unified juridical system in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The current legal frameworks, that govern Palestine today, is a set of mixed Ottoman, British, Jordanian, and Palestinian jurisdictions, as well as Israeli military orders. Some laws are repealed, which either applied only to the Gaza Strip or to the West Bank and/or sometimes to both. For example, the 1966 Jordanian Antiquities Law is enforced in the West Bank, while the 1929 British Antiquities Law is enforced in the Gaza Strip (Kogelschatz, 2016).

Ottoman authorities, followed by British Mandate, and Jordanian and Israeli legislation, regulated archaeological activities by granting licenses for excavations with aims of protecting the rich abundance of irreplaceable historical artefacts and preventing illicit trade. Since the 1967 Israeli Occupation, the pre-existing domestic legislation applied to the West Bank has been substantially altered by a succession of Israeli military commanders, who have seized far-reaching and extensive powers. In 1982, the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) was established, and an Israeli Archaeology Staff Officer (ASO) position was created, allowing extensive alterations to pre-occupation legislation specifically applicable to archaeology in the West Bank (Diakonia, 2015).

After the Oslo Agreements, and most notably the 1995 interim agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, powers and responsibilities in the sphere of archaeology in occupied Palestine were to have been transferred from the Israeli Occupation Authorities to the Palestinian side by 1999. Oslo agreed that the archaeological sphere includes, inter alia, the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, management, supervision, licensing, and all other archaeological activities (Oslo II Accord, 1995). Although the interim agreement specified a gradual transfer of powers in the field of archaeology to the Palestinian side, these powers have remained exclusively in the hands of the Israeli Occupation, which still controls all archaeological sites and activities in Area C (Oslo II Accord, 1995).

#### 4.3.2 Current Legislation for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the WHP

1. **International Conventions**

On 23 November 2011, Palestine became a member of UNESCO. It ratified several conventions relating to cultural property, such as the 1954 Hague Convention and its two protocols. It also joined, amongst other legal instruments, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Palestine's obligations under international treaty law are to enhance protection of Palestinian cultural heritage and to ensure conformity of Palestine's own legislation and practice to international standards.

- **1954 Hague Convention**

The convention of the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict (hereinafter: the 1954
Hague Convention), was drafted as a response to damage, looting, and destruction of cultural property during World War II. It forms part of the core body of international humanitarian law applied in armed conflict. The treaty deals specifically with the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict and is based on the concept that conservation of cultural properties is a matter of concern for all states rather than an internal affair for a particular state. As such, it launched the concept of the universality of cultural property as being cultural heritage for all humankind.

The convention is based on two main concepts: safeguard and respect. States Parties first must take initiatives during peacetime to safeguard cultural property; secondly, they must respect this property during an armed conflict or military occupation.


This convention is one of the main instruments of UNESCO in order to protect and safeguard cultural properties and to combat the theft, illicit exportation, and trafficking of cultural property as well as promote the restriction of objects to their countries of origin. It also prohibits the transfer of ownership over cultural objects, which may result in the disappearance of historically significant cultural objects into private collections inaccessible to the public.

- World Heritage Convention, 1972

Palestine was admitted as a full UNESCO member on 31 October 2011, and it subsequently ratified the World Heritage Convention of 1972 on 8 December of the same year. In this context, the convention and its related provisions, decisions, and Operational Guidelines, has become part of the Palestinian legal framework used to secure the WHPs and its boundaries. The Convention sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage. The States Parties are encouraged to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures, which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.

2. Bilateral Agreements

- The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and The Gaza Strip

The Oslo Agreements divided the Palestinian territories into three temporary administrational divisions until a final status accord is established. The divisions are as follows:

- **Area A** is under the full control of the Palestinian Authority, including all Palestinian cities and surrounding areas with no Israeli civilian presence. It comprises ca. 2.7% of the land area;
- **Area B** is the area in which civilian affairs are under the Palestinian authority, while security affairs under the Israeli control, including areas of Palestinian towns and villages and areas with no Israeli presence, constituting ca. 25.1% of the land area;
- **Area C** is under full Israeli control. These areas include the Israeli settlements, land in the vicinity of these localities, most roadways that connect Israeli settlements, as well as strategic areas described as “security zones,” amounting to 72.2% of the land area (Oslo II Accord, 1995).

Consequently, the Palestinian Authority controls more or less 30 percent of the total West Bank in areas “A” and “B” while Israel retains wide powers in the management of antiquities in the OPTs in Area “C.” This division has fragmented the OPTs, and has been an obstacle towards protection and conservation of Palestinian cultural heritage. In line with the Peace Accords described above, Palestinians are required to protect and safeguard archaeological sites, prevent damage, respect academic freedom and grant excavation licenses to archaeologists on a non-discriminatory basis. However, no similar conditions were placed on the Israeli side. Furthermore, the archaeological sites that were handed over to the PA were generally in bad conservation conditions. Many of them have lost their archaeological features due to improper interventions, or the neglect of conservation measures to mitigate their deterioration. 28

More than 85% of the world heritage property lands are classified as Area C, while about 15% are located in lands classified as Area B within the municipal Battir village area. See attached map in Appendix 7.

28 For more details see Annex 6, “Archaeology and Oslo.”
3. Cultural and Natural Heritage Legislation in Palestine

After the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in 1994, a presidential decree was issued that reinstated all laws which existed prior to 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. Thus, the Palestinian cultural heritage legislation consists of the following set of direct and indirect jurisdictions.

- Direct Legislation

Direct legislation refers to laws that include specific provisions related to the management and safeguarding of cultural heritage properties.

In 1966, the Jordanian Law of Antiquities, number 51 replaced the 1929 Law, which is still in effect today in the Gaza Strip. Both laws only protect tangible heritage (movable and immovable objects and buildings that were constructed before the year 1700 AD, and human and animal remnants predating 600 AD).

It is worth noting that according to the Oslo Accord and the presidential decree (1994), the 1966 Jordanian Law is applied in Areas “A” and “B,” in addition to the Israeli military orders in Area “C,” which are applied by the Occupation Authorities.

The new Law (No. 11, 2018) for the Protection and Conservation of Tangible Cultural Heritage Resources in Palestine was endorsed by the president of Palestine on 29 April 2018 (Al-Waqa’e Palestinian Newspaper, 2018). It overcomes 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 movable and immovable cultural heritage remains, cultural landscapes, protection, management, conservation, vandalism and violations etc., as well as specifying legal measures for conserving and safeguarding other components of cultural heritage during peace time and armed conflict in conformity with the international conventions, recommendations and standards. It also offers MoTA clear legal mandates on the World Heritage Properties, including management, conservation and development, preparation nomination dossiers, etc. It contains reference to heritage and environment impact assessment, and explain the mechanisms and the type of projects that need to be assessed before construction. Finally, it defines the management roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the protection and management of cultural heritage properties.

Article (23, Par. 2) of the Tangible Cultural Heritage Law (No. 11, 2018), states that “New buildings and construction additions may be allowed in the cultural landscape properties and in their surrounding areas; or implementation of infrastructure works and major projects after obtaining a written permission from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The permission should be based on Heritage Impact Assessment and Environment Impact Assessment.”

In 2006 and 2010, bylaws of the protection of historical areas and buildings 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.

In 2016, Bylaws of building planning outside the thematic master plans were adopted by the Palestinian Cabinet, these bylaws organize the urban planning in the areas outside the master plans area by enacting a set of regulations that specify the buildings heights, percentage, and type.

In 2013, the Palestine Charter on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Palestine was adopted. It is a participatory measure that provides a national framework for the sustainable conservation and management of cultural heritage.

The Palestinian Environmental law, number 7 of 1999 contains different provisions on protection of nature, fauna, and flora. The Palestinian Environment law defined the natural preservation sites as the specified sites for protecting specific kinds of living creatures or any environmental systems that have natural or aesthetic values.
The Palestinian Environment Law of 1999, article 5 considers the preservation of cultural heritage sites to be one of the basic aims of the Palestinian environmental strategy. Article 44 of the same law bans any activity or behaviour that might cause damage to cultural heritage properties or disturb the aesthetic value of these sites.

**Article 5**: Rights guaranteed by the law
This law guarantees:

a. The right of every human being to live in a sound and clean environment as well as enjoy the highest extent of public health and welfare.

b. Protect the country’s natural wealth’s and its economic resources as well as maintain its historical and civilization heritage without damage or side effects which may appear sooner or later as a result of the different industrial, agricultural or constructional activities on the basic life species and the environmental systems such as air, water, soil and sea, animal and botanical wealth.

**Indirect Legislation**
A list of some additional indirect legislation (provisions not specifically related to the management and safeguarding of cultural heritage properties) and other considerations relevant to the protection of cultural and natural heritage are listed below.

1. The Jordanian Law, number 79, 1966 on building and zoning of towns, villages, and buildings, that is applicable in the West Bank mentioned the obligation of preserving the sites, caves, buildings, constructions, and old remains that have a historical or heritage or archaeological value when preparing regional outline schemes. (Article 15/1).

2. 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).

3. Article 5 of the 1964 Jordanian Law of Education, number 16 considers the dissemination of Arabic and Islamic heritage as one of the main tasks of the Ministry of Education. Furthermore, the resolution number 4 for 1997 on establishing the home of Palestinian national books considered collecting and preserving cultural heritage, collecting the documents and the Palestinian, Arabian, and International heritage manuscripts, and preserving them, main objectives for this organization/home. (Article 2, points 1&2).

4. The Jordanian Natural Resources Law, number 37, 1966 addressed the protection of cultural heritage through the following: it defined the heritage sites as any declared historical site according to the law of Antiquities (article 2, point 34). It defined the holy places as any holy place or religious building or site that is supervised by any religious committee according to the laws and regulations.

5. The Israeli military order number 363, 1969 in the West Bank defines protected natural assets as anything, or type of thing, that exists in nature: fauna, or flora, or an object, that has been declared as a protected natural asset in the declaration process of the competent authority. It is prohibited to bring any change to these protected assets, to harm or damage them, to allow cars onto them, or to throw rubbish in these places.

6. In January 2013, a declaration regarding the safeguarding of the WHP’s OUV and its physical attributes was signed by the Battir village council and representatives of eight families that live in the village, in order to support the site’s inscription on the World Heritage List. It underlines the importance of preserving the property for future generations and maintaining its continuity and sustainability. Landowners pledge to preserve and protect it from change and to maintain the current shape and use of the territory, the vegetable gardens “Al-Jenan” and agricultural terraces, and to cultivate and harvest them. The landowners also commit to support various state actors in
the implementation of any management and conservation plan prepared that will conserve the outstanding universal value of this area and/or any protection procedures asked by the World Heritage Committee or related national institutions.29

7. 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 considerable value and potential of this 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.

There is a lot of primary and secondary legislation on Agriculture in Palestine, including:

a. The Forests Law, number 61, 1926: mentions the prohibited acts in the preserved forests such as removing forest produce, uprooting a tree, burning it, taking its leaves, or damaging it; burning grass; smoking in banned smoking places, etc. The Forests Law punishes any action in preserved forests by imprisonment of six months or a fine or both. Moreover, the same law contains a list of the names of the preserved forests and their locations in Palestine.

b. Banning Smoking Decree of 1945: bans smoking, causing smoking, permitting smoking at any place in a preserved forest during a specific period (spring and summer of each year), and imposes a punishment of imprisonment of 12 years or a fine or both.

c. The law for the prevention of floods and soil erosion, number 12, 1941: gives Al mandoub al sami the right to manage areas of cultivated plants, or wild plants, to uproot them, burn them or remove them for the sake of preventing floods and soil erosion.

d. The Agriculture Law of 2003: gives the Ministry of Agriculture the responsibility for developing agricultural policy, in cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental bodies. The same law also addresses the Ministry’s tasks within the context of national income, including developing the forest resources, undertaking maintenance on formal changes.

Although there are number of legislations aimed at protecting Palestinian heritage, significant shortcomings remain and are compromising the effectiveness of the management system for the WHP. Furthermore, the implementation of these laws has not always been consistent especially in the light of the political conflicts and the numerous changes in ruling authorities.

Moreover, in order to regulate the WHP’s Buffer Zone, there is an urgent need to develop and enact legal framework, as cultural heritage in the Buffer Zone is facing threats through uncontrolled urban development and a lack of community awareness. The challenges posed by competing private ownerships, property fragmentation and intensive land use within or around the WHP also needs to be regulated. In response to changes in heritage legislation or other legislation that impacts heritage management, it is occasionally necessary to focus efforts on adapting the mindset of the local community to match these formal changes.

4.4 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK (STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNER INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES)

There are many public institutions and NGOs involved in the management and conservation of cultural heritage or with at least a direct or indirect mandate to the management of the World Heritage Property. The primary institutions involved in managing the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir are the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) and the Battir Municipality. 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 Environmental Quality Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Local Government, Beit Jala Municipality, Hussan village council, and the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Bethlehem.

The following table describes the main institutions working in the WHP, and their roles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Key Stakeholder</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)</td>
<td>Legally responsible for management, conservation, protection, and revitalization of cultural heritage properties in Palestine. It also controls, supervises, and licenses all tourism entities, promotes Palestine within international markets as an independent tourism destination; enhances public awareness within local communities about the importance of cultural heritage and tourism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Environmental Quality Authority (EQA)</td>
<td>Responsible for strategic planning, legislation, monitoring, and implementing of environmental regulations; also coordinates with authorities at the local, regional, and international levels concerning the protection of Palestinian environment and development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</td>
<td>Oversees the agricultural sector; supervises and provides some key agricultural and veterinary services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)</td>
<td>Oversees the local government sector; aims to achieve sustainable development with the participation of community actors; builds communities’ institutional capacity; promotes community and local government engagement; promotes fiscal autonomy through public-private partnerships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Municipalities of Battir, Beit Jala &amp; Hussan Village Council</td>
<td>Responsible for urban planning, the day-to-day maintenance and management of public services, managing solid waste collection, issuing building permits, improving social services, supervising public markets, and developing infrastructure, e.g. road construction and maintenance, street cleaning, electricity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP)</td>
<td>Oversee preservation of traditional and historical neighborhoods and buildings, as well as urban rehabilitation projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Local Community</td>
<td>Inhabitants of Battir, Hussan, and Beit Jala localities are the most important assets of the WHP; they live in the property, influence it and are influenced by it; they preserve the property and maintain its tangible and intangible qualities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>Consists of professional stakeholders, including researchers, tour operators, and anyone who has a commercial, social, or economical interest in the WHP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>International Institutions such as UNESCO and International Donors</td>
<td>These stakeholders contribute to conserve and develop the property on technical and financial terms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 7 WHP Stakeholder Roles**

In addition to the abovementioned stakeholders, various civil associations and NGOs that work in the field of tourism, agricultural, environmental and cultural heritage can contribute to conservation, presentation and promotion of the site. These institutions include the Arab Hotel Association (AHA), the Holy Land Incoming Tour Operators Association (HILTOA), the Arab Tourist Guide Union (ATGU), the Battir 2020 Initiative, the Eco-museum, the Battir Public library, the Battir Women Cooperative Society, the Hassan Mustafa Cultural Centre, the Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil, the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ), the Joint Service Council for Tourism Development of Bethlehem Governorate (JSCDDB), and the International Peace and Cooperation Centre (IPCC). However, the lack of an MCP and an appropriate protection system have lead to conflict over the supervision of the WHP between MoTA and other

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30 For more details see Appendix 1, “Stakeholders, Steering Committee, and Focus Group.”
entities, such as the Battir Municipality, private sector institutions, and some NGOs. Each of these actors works alone, with little or no cooperation with MoTA or between one another. Although several local Palestinian NGOs have been involved in the conservation of WHPs in Palestine, their role in conservation of cultural heritage in Battir has been very limited and not influential. It is limited to cultural outreach programs, or on documentation and rehabilitation of some historic buildings, such as the efforts of CCHP in documentation some of traditional buildings and the International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC) in organizing and supporting cultural activities.

Effective management of the WHP also depends on a cooperative relationship between the various stakeholders and public institutions. Stakeholders must be flexible enough to work with each other, from the time of preparing the site’s nomination to management after its inscription; respect requirements (e.g. monitoring responsibilities, responding to ‘State of Conservation’ requests, facilitating missions, periodic reporting, OUV requirements, and the need to protect OUV as the baseline for management); and accommodate new and emerging concepts, such as improving approaches to capacity-building, risk management and sustainable development for the site (UNESCO, 2013, p. 73).

4.4.2 Conservation and Management of the Cultural Landscape

For centuries, the inhabitants of Battir, Hussan, and Beit Jala were responsible for the conservation of their cultural landscapes and carefully used and maintained the landscape as a resource. However, today conservation of historical property requires highly specialised expertise in order to produce a set of tools that will enable the Palestinian national and local authorities to effectively safeguard this outstanding landscape.

The majority of the inscribed area lies in Area C, which is under the control of the Israeli Civil Administration. These conditions cause a significant management challenge; for example, it is forbidden to intervene to maintain or restore watchtowers and other features or conduct archaeological surveys or excavation in area C. Thus, the MCP will address this aspect with the entire WHP and include special strategies and mitigation measures.

4.5 PLANNING FRAMEWORK (PLANNING INSTRUMENTS)

Current planning activities in the WHP are limited and insufficient, especially in the heritage sector. As with other sectors, the heritage sector is characterized by multiple approaches, pilot actions, and projects undertaken within the WHP hastily without prior planning efforts and no overall strategic plan has been developed.

The current planning framework within WHP is summarized below.

4.5.1 National Spatial Plan

The National Spatial Plan is a physical plan that was developed by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Agricultural, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Environmental Quality Authority in 2012, and ratified by the Palestinian Cabinet on 9 January 2014. This plan classifies the land in the West Bank according to land use, land cover, biodiversity, forests, agricultural value, cultural heritage, watershed areas, and industrial use.

Few lands in the WHP are classified as having high agricultural value and used for cultivation; low value lands are classified for construction purposes. The majority of lands in the WHP are classified as having medium agricultural value or as forests and biodiversity reserve areas, such as the Wadi al Makhrou area.

During the field survey and mapping process, and after reviewing the provisions which were ratified by the Palestinian Cabinet in 2014 regarding urban development in the low and medium agricultural value lands, it seems that the National Spatial Plan contains many shortcomings and does not reflect the true value of the land as it exists on the ground. The current map and classifications shall be clearly modified to be consistent with the MCP objectives, strategies and actions.
4.5.2 Battir Municipality Annual Action Plan

The Battir Municipality prepares its Annual Action Plan each year, which is arranged in close cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government, the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF). The Action Plan includes projects that aim primarily to meet the needs of the local community and intend to improve Battir’s physical infrastructure, agricultural developments, educational and tourist facilities. It is worth noting that this year the Municipality is preparing its Action Plan for the next four years (2018-21).

The annual Action Plan is consistent with the MCP objectives, strategies and actions, and will be endorsed by the Ministry of Local Government and funded by MDLF, in close cooperation of various donors.

4.5.3 Thematic Planning (Site Master Plan)

In cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government, the Battir Municipality is currently finalizing the Physical Master Plan for the village. The Plan was prepared according to the Building and Planning Law, number 79 (1966), and intends to regulate land-use and building licenses within the village; the plan includes parts of the Core and Buffer Zone of the WHP.

This plan is expected to be ratified by the end of 2018, see Annex 8.

According to the primary Map of the Master Plan, it appears that the plan covers part of the Buffer Zone (approx. 1461 km²), which includes the municipal area of Battir, in addition to the approved 1992 Master Plan, which includes the Old Core of Battir with 300 km². 41% of the proposed plan is classified as residential buildings, class B, and 41% as residential buildings, class C. 3% is classified as commercial buildings along Battir’s main street and the remaining 15% are classified as public buildings and green areas. According to the Buildings Bylaws of 2011 (article 6 for class B and C), the setback distance, building heights, and floor ratio need comprehensive analyses and modifications to conserve the OUV of the WHP and its physical attributes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>% of land area</th>
<th>Floor ratio</th>
<th>No. of Floors</th>
<th>Height (m)</th>
<th>Front Setback</th>
<th>Side Setback</th>
<th>Back Setback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential class A</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>180%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential class B</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>210%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential class C</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>240%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Provisions of Residential Buildings in Master Plan

4.5.3 Battir 2020 Tourism Initiative

The local community of Battir has worked together to develop “Battir 2020,” a creative initiative that aims to implement sustainable cultural activities by establishing volunteer work groups in various fields. The initiative was established by the youth of the village and consists of 70 participating young women and men. It works on raising the villagers’ awareness about the WHP and the importance of maintaining its Outstanding Universal Value. Battir 2020 also works on locally funded activities to promote tourism and the WHP to an international audience, in close cooperation with the Battir Municipality, MoTA, UNESCO, and other stakeholders. The initiative aims to increase the number of tourists to the village by the year 2020 and develop high quality tourist services and accommodations.
4.6 RESOURCES (HUMAN AND FINANCIAL)

Resources are the basis of operational capacity and come in three main forms: human, financial and intellectual. They enable the institutional framework to carry out the mandate defined by the legal framework. They are more likely to be subject to frequent changes than the institutional or legal frameworks (UNESCO, 2013, p. 75). The WHP resources are described below.

Human Resources

- Local community: includes those who live in the WHP, use and cultivate its terraces, and transmit its traditional customs to the next generation; they are the most important resource for preserving the land, cultural landscape, archaeological remains, and all other site elements; they play a crucial role in conserving the WHP and its physical attributes through various activities including cultivation and grazing, and maintenance of irrigation channels, old houses and agricultural watchtowers.

- MoTA Team: includes the ministry employees who work within the WHP, prepare and implement the MCP, follow up and monitor the WHP’s state of conservation, review and approve projects within the site, and direct and/or organize all activities within the WHP.

- Battir Municipality Team: includes the municipality team that implements projects and actions within the WHP; have a basic role to restrict adverse activities that have a negative impact on the site’s OUV and to raise local community awareness.

- Researchers: includes national and international researchers, experts, and other professions working in the property; they add knowledge, experience, and expertise to further the public’s understanding of the WHP.

Thus, the human resources available for managing the WHP are not sufficient either in quantitative or qualitative terms. The site is managed by several public and semipublic entities, including MOTA, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Battir Municipalities, Environment Quality Authority, the Eco-Museum, and the Ministry of Waqf and Religious Affairs. Each of these entities manages its affairs according to its mandates. For example, MoTA manages cultural heritage and tourism, while MoA manages agriculture and so on. However, there is no an official entity responsible on the management of the entire site, nor a special staff designated to manage the property.

Financial Resources

After the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, tourism, agriculture, culture, and cultural heritage have flourished. The inscription has also attracted donors from around the world to finance various development and conservation projects. Over the last three years, many projects were financed and implemented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), the Italian Government, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF), the British Council, and the French Government.

Despite these contributions, the site still suffers from inadequate financial resources and lacks an appropriate annual budget allocated for safeguarding and maintaining its attributes. Conservation and enhancement of the WHP still depends on isolated projects funded by foreign donors, and these sorts of projects are mostly designed for job creation programmes rather than sustainable safeguarding the cultural heritage properties. Essentially, these types of interventions do not serve long-term or strategic conservation and management of cultural heritage of the WHP.
PART 3: THE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

CHAPTER FIVE: SWOT ANALYSIS, VISION, AND OBJECTIVES
5.1 SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE WHP, BATTIR

The cultural landscape of the WHP includes many significant ecological, agrarian, cultural, historical, economical, and anthropological values and their physical attributes, which have great potential to serve as resources for the sustainable development of the Battir area. In terms of a SWOT analysis, these values and attributes can be identified as points of internal strength and could provide a foundation for development projects based on cultural landscape conservation and management.

A successful workshop with the local community was held to specify the WHP’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, as well as to involve the local population in future planning tasks by identifying important concepts of sustainable planning, exchanging knowledge of the main threats to the WHP, and seeking future solutions.

The strengths and weaknesses were divided according to three main issues: planning and conservation, visitor management, and services and infrastructure. The property’s opportunities and threats were subsequently identified.

The following table describes the results of the SWOT analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
<th>MCP Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Planning</td>
<td>- The presence of the set of laws and bylaws</td>
<td>- The absence of implementation of the law</td>
<td>Set an operational management system to oversee the WHP</td>
<td>Inadequate management response, potential lack of coordination and communication, unclear chain of command which will threaten the WHP OUV</td>
<td>Obj. 1, 2, 3 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The endorsement of 2018 cultural heritage law</td>
<td>- Aging of laws and regulations that organize urban expansion and land use within the WHP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The National Spatial Plan which organizes and regulates Palestinian land use</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
<th>MCP Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of a new Physical Master Plan for Battir’s town</td>
<td>The Master Plan has not yet been ratified</td>
<td>Addressing the Master Plan according to the OUV</td>
<td></td>
<td>The adopted provisions of the master plan are not consistent with the property’s OUV</td>
<td>Obj. 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
<th>MCP Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Many national and international donors invest and implement projects within the WHP</td>
<td>- No annual budget for the conservation of the WHP, based on its practical needs</td>
<td>Battir is a model for sustainable development in the national level especially in institutional, agricultural, infrastructure, growth of the local economy</td>
<td>- The Israeli occupation and its continuous retaliation, policies, and procedures. - Cultural globalization that has affected rural places around the world and has led to dramatic loss of income for traditional agricultural activities</td>
<td>Obj. 5, 6, 12 and 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and Protection</td>
<td>Historical agrarian landscape: dry-stone walls, stone watchtowers, irrigated agricultural terraces, vegetables (Battir eggplant) and fruit orchards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Uncontrolled urban expansion within the Old Core or towards agricultural lands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cemetery area within the terraces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Low quality of houses/buildings in the villages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fragmentation of property and absence of a registry of landownership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Development of guidelines for urban design within the framework of the Master Plan for Battir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mapping the ownership pattern in the future</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing risk of significant land confiscation (e.g., lands beyond railroad and beyond illegal Israeli settlements)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obj. 6, 7, and 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Heritage Property since 2014</th>
<th>- Adverse impact of tourism activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Negative behaviour of tourists on the property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop strategies and actions by key stakeholders to conserve the site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Israeli occupation and its continuous retaliation, policies, and procedures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obj. 7, 8, and 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archaeological Heritage: ancient archaeological sites (Khirbet Battir; Roman pools, irrigation systems; caves, tombs, ruins from Canaanite, Roman, Islamic Periods)</th>
<th>Increase in vulnerability of sites as a result of tourism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop strategies and actions by key stakeholders to conserve the archaeological heritage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited possibilities of interventions because of Israeli control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obj. 8 and 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| - Traditional irrigation customs passed down verbally from one generation to the next, regulates water use of the farmers for hundreds of years |
| - Local oral cultural heritage and traditional knowledge |
| - Neglecting the traditional irrigation practices threaten the sustainability of this custom |
| - Lead adoption of conservation strategies for this custom |
| Vanishing of knowledge of traditional irrigation practices |
| Obj. 8, 9 and 10 |

| - Hydrography, geomorphology, and geology: an abundance of springs and other water resources on the property, the beauty of the jagged walls of the valley, unique geological formations, and the terraced landscape |
| - Uncontrolled urban expansion over the recharge area of the springs and consequent negative impacts on spring water supply and quality |
| - Lead adoption of conservation strategies for the Hydrography, geomorphology, and geology system |
| The Israeli occupation and its chronic repercussions policies and procedures |
| Obj. 11 |
### Tourism and Visitor Management

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</tbody>
</table>

**Tourism destination with minimal tourist services, tourism products based on site’s remarkable cultural landscape and identity**

- Tourism infrastructure of the WHP is weak and inadequate for catering to various visitor categories; negatively affects the vulnerability of surrounding cultural landscape
- Conflicts in interest between some of the local community and tour operators
- Visitors’ negative impact on the WHP: includes causing problems in the railway path, destroying agricultural lands and crops
- Missing national plans or strategies for the tourism industry of the WHP
- No designated tourist’s trails at the WHP
- Battir and surrounding cultural landscape suffer from trash and unclean areas caused by visitors and locals
- Heterogeneous and weak signage and informative panels throughout the WHP
- The WHP is open for individuals to build private investments and personal projects to serve tourists, including restaurants, guesthouses, souvenir and other shops, parks, and traditional museums
- Insufficient national legalizations guiding tourism infrastructure that might negatively impact the WHP

**Its proximity to Bethlehem and Jerusalem as the main tourist destination in Palestine**

- Number of unorganized individual initiatives (e.g., Battir 2020) that work to market the WHP
- Number of promotional materials and websites that present and market the property
- Battir Eco-Museum
  - Lack of human and financial resources
  - Lack of operational plan for the Eco-Museum
  - Can be used as a center to receive tourist groups

**Local products and handicrafts are produced and sold in the WHP**

- Limited cultural events, activities and entertainment components offered in the WHP
- No quality control for the products
- Promote the site by developing various strategies
- Improve the quality of local products and their branding

**The Israeli occupation and its continuous retaliation, policies, and procedures**

- Insufficient national quality criteria

**Obj. 13, 14, 15, and 16**

**Obj. 13 and 14**
According to the above SWOT analysis, it is clear that the management and conservation objectives must aim to conserve the WHP’s strengths. These strength-based objectives may be summarized as two main types: (1) conservation and protection of the property’s OUV and physical attributions, including agricultural traditions and practices; and (2) tourism and infrastructure management to support the socioeconomic improvement of the local community.

It is also essential for the MCP’s objectives to offer solutions for the WHP’s weaknesses. The objectives which aim to address these issues can be summarized as three main types: (1) development of the WHP’s current management system; (2) engagement of the local community and strengthening public awareness; (3) and improvement of services and infrastructure.

The MCP objectives shall also include strategies and actions that advantage of the opportunities available within the site, and shall provide an appropriate risk management system for reducing the adverse impact and loss of value caused by extant threats in the WHP area, especially the geopolitical situation and the limitations imposed on the property.
The main management and conservation themes were determined according to the SWOT analysis and the Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) and its Corrective Measures that were adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2015 (Decision 39COM7A.29) as necessary for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The themes were specified to ensure safeguarding the WHP’s OUV and its authenticity and integrity, to be in line with the DSOCR, and to achieve its Corrective Measures. The next step was to develop the WHP’s Vision Statement, which describes the desired state of the property in 20-30 years’ time. It also details the steps needed to achieve that goal, including the safeguarding of the property’s OUV and its other values and enhancing the socioeconomic status of the local community. The vision statement guides the development of objectives, strategies, and action plans.

The vision for “Palestine Land of Olives and Vines, the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir” was developed in cooperation with the local community and related stakeholders during a workshop held in Battir, and is based on the SWOT analysis and related issues posted as a questionnaire on social media (the Battir Municipality’s official Facebook page) to allow local inhabitants to identify the main issues included in the property vision as they conceived them.

**Vision for**

“Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines—Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir” is a well-managed, conserved and protected property. It’s Outstanding Universal Value and the conditions of authenticity and integrity of supporting attributes, socioeconomic status of the local community, presentation and interpretation are sustainably conserved, improved and enhanced enabling present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate it.

**5.3 MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION THEMES FOR THE WHP**

The Management Conservation Plan was developed with the participation of all key stakeholders, who reached a consensus on its objectives, strategies, and actions. They are classified under five main themes: Management and Planning, Conservation and Protection, Tourism and Visitor Management, Engagement of Local Community and Public Awareness, and Infrastructure and Accessibility. This chapter introduces a set of management and conservation objectives for the WHP for ten years (2018-2027), divided into three timeframes: a short term (2018-2020), a mid-term (2021-2024), and a long term (2025-2027) in order to ensure its implementation within the intended timeframe. This Management Conservation Plan is also based on the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, which has been used as a keystone for any management or conservation plan or intervention undertaken within the property, taking into account the goal to achieve the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of properties from the List of World heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and its Corrective Measures for removal of the WHP from the World Heritage List in Danger.

The Management Conservation Plan provides a schematic blueprint and common vision for the conservation and management process, states clearly how the cultural landscape can be coherently preserved, and guides decision-making. The Management Conservation Plan 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 disparate interests of various stakeholders. The strategies and actions of these objectives are further elaborated in Volume 2, “The Action Plan.”

The main management and conservation issues are developed under the following themes:

- Management and Planning
- Conservation and Protection
- Tourism and Visitor Management
- Engagement of Local Community and Public Awareness
- Infrastructure and Accessibility
Aims of the Management Conservation Plan

The principal long-term aims of the management and conservation plan are summarized below.

In the long term, the OUV of the property and its wider cultural significance as well as large parts of related tangible and intangible attributes are adequately protected and sustained through appropriate mechanisms that also allow for equitable and sustainable development of the local inhabitants and for the enjoyment of local communities and visitors alike. Heritage value protection and sustenance strategies need to also guarantee the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of the local communities and be sustainable.

5.3.1 Management and Planning Theme

The management strategy for the WHP is based on the results of a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the property, including its physical condition, management, local context, socioeconomic status, and SWOT analysis. It defines the main directions under which the management of the property will be undertaken to fulfill WHP requirements. It is also geared to reducing and mitigating the adverse impact of threats, and making use of available opportunities to ensure effective and efficient management.

The following objectives are defined in order to achieve this theme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 1: To put in place an effective management framework to conserve and safeguard the cultural landscape of the World Heritage Property, its OUV, and its authenticity and integrity. (Elaborated in Strategy 1.1, and Strategy 1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 2: To set out an operational management system for the WHP that supervises the implementation of its MCP. (Elaborated in Strategy 2.1, and Strategy 2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 3: To synergize and mainstream the MCP within the national and local planning framework, for the benefit of the property and its inhabitants. (Elaborated in Strategy 3.1, and Strategy 3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 4: To ensure that any project planned or implemented within the property should sustain its OUV and their supporting attributes. (Elaborated in Strategy 4.1, and Strategy 4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 5: To secure financial resources and develop innovative mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the management system of the WHP. (Elaborated in Strategy 5.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 6: To develop conservation preventive measures and alterations to mitigate threats and risks against the WHP. (Elaborated in Strategy 6.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.2 Conservation and Protection Theme

This theme deals with conservation of the WHP’s OUV, its physical attributes, its integrity and authenticity, and other values of the property. These objectives focus on sustaining the OUV of the WHP through conservation and enhancement of the property and its physical attributes.
Management & Conservation Plan 2018

5.3.3 Tourism and Visitor Management

Theme

Since “Palestine Land of Olives and Vines, the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir” was inscribed on the World Heritage List, it has become one of the most important tourist destinations in Palestine. Its significant natural and cultural heritage qualities makes it an indispensable destination for tourists.

The following objectives are defined in order to achieve this theme:

**Objectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 7: To strengthen the legislations and regulations for conservation and protection of the cultural landscape, the historic old core, the archaeological remains, and the physical attributes of the OUV. (Elaborated in Strategy 7.1, Strategy 7.2, Strategy 7.3 and Strategy 7.4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 8: To conserve and improve conditions of the physical attributes of the cultural landscape and their integrity and authenticity. (Elaborated in Strategy 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, and Strategy 8.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 9: To establish a research framework for archaeological and ecological investigations (surveys and excavations and to save and transmit the local oral cultural heritage and traditional knowledge to future generations in the WHP. (Elaborated in Strategy 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and Strategy 9.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 10: To enhance and conserve traditional agrarian practices and knowledge to be transmitted to future generations. (Elaborated in Strategy 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and Strategy 10.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 11: To conserve the biodiversity and natural ecosystem of the WHP. (Elaborated in Strategy 11.1, 11.2, and Strategy 11.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 12: To enhance the capacity of human resources within the WHP. (Elaborated in Strategy 12.1, and Strategy 12.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.3.1 Tourism and Visitor Management

Tourism interests related to the cultural landscape of the property can be developed, well preserved, and sustainably valorized as assets only if they are holistically managed, and subsequently extended to improve the local economy and enhance quality of life for the WHP community.

The following objectives are defined in order to achieve this theme:

**Objectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 13: To develop sustainable tourism facilities and services in full partnership with private sector stakeholders, while respecting the OUV of the Palestine Land of Olives and Vines, the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir and the traditional values of the local community. (Elaborated in Strategy 13.1, and Strategy 13.2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 14: To develop safe and secured tourism infrastructure within the WHP to cater to various types of visitors, taking into account the vulnerability of the surrounding cultural landscape. (Elaborated in Strategy 14.1, 14.2, 14.3 and Strategy 14.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 15: To holistically and meaningfully interpret and present the WHP to visitors and the local community. (Elaborated in Strategy 15.1,15.2, and Strategy 15.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 16: To promote the WHP on a national and international level. (Elaborated in Strategy 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4 and Strategy 16.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3.4 Engagement of Local Community and Public Awareness Theme

Engaging the local community in the management and conservation process is one of the most critical factors for ensuring sustainable protection of traditional practices and overall long-term management and conservation success for the WHP. Local inhabitants and institutions within the WHP show a high degree of care concerning the great value and potential of their outstanding cultural landscape as a multifunctional and dynamic resource. They are highly aware of conservation and development requirements within the framework of sustainable change. As previously mentioned, there are many mechanisms set out for local community engagement throughout the management and conservation process.

However, there is also insufficient awareness regarding conservation of the WHP's values due to the lack of appropriate educational and outreach programs in the villages. Thus, it is important to provide a platform for improving public awareness and understanding of the property through innovative strategies in keeping with the objectives of the MCP.

The following objectives are defined in order to achieve this theme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Objective 17: To achieve sustainable planning and development of the World Heritage Property based on the local community's needs and desires.  
*(Elaborated in Strategy 17.1, 17.2, 17.3 and Strategy 17.4)* |
| Objective 18: To enhance public awareness of the importance of the Cultural Landscape of the WHP among the local community, visitors, stakeholders, and other decision makers.  
*(Elaborated in Strategy 18.1 and Strategy 18.2)* |

5.3.5 Infrastructure and Accessibility Theme

This theme aims to address inadequate infrastructure and services in the WHP that, in their current condition, fail to properly meet the needs of the local community and site visitors. The absence of a sewage system and the infiltration of sewage into water springs are the most significant challenges threatening water quality and causing major issues for both local farmers and the environment. Another major problem is the lack of an efficient solid waste management system to maintain WHP sanitation. Furthermore, narrow internal roads and a lack of parking lots and bus stops constitute considerable challenges to both visitors and locals and complicate accessibility of many parts of the cultural landscape.

The following objectives are defined in order to achieve this theme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Objective 19: To enhance the WHP's infrastructure, services, and accessibility.  
| Objective 20: To solve and mitigate the most urgent environmental problems: water pollution, solid waste dumps, and soil pollution.  
PART 3: THE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

CHAPTER SIX: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE MCP
6.1 THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

6.1.1 MoTA Proposed Structure

It is important to note that the objectives outlined in the previous chapter are not the responsibility of one single institution, but is a duty that is jointly shared and committed to by all partners involved in the management of the WHP. These include the individual landowners in the WHP all the way to national government parties. Thus, it is very important to establish a clear Operational Management System for the WHP that organizes and oversees the implementation of this MCP.

This management system meets the requirements of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities as the legal entity responsible for all of the World Heritage Sites in Palestine, which is committed to the obligations of international conventions, notably the 1972 World Heritage Convention. As several public institutions have different stakes on the property, the main role of MoTA is to ensure a common management approach for the WHP, including coordination, communication, giving opinions on projects and interventions, promoting understanding of the duties of all stakeholders in their respective fields of responsibilities, and applying the management system.

In 2018, MoTA proposed a new institutional structure that includes a “General Directorate for Site Management and World Heritage Sites in Palestine,” which aims to provide a comprehensive management system for all cultural heritage sites in Palestine. The responsibilities of this proposed directorate are to conserve, manage, valorize, and promote the cultural heritage sites and the inscribed World Heritage Sites, submit new sites to the WHC on the Tentative List, and regularly monitor and report on Palestinian WHPs for the WHCom.

For each WHS in Palestine, designated steering committees and site management committees are appointed, and committee members are selected according to the needs and condition of each Site.

Figure 6.1 MoTA Proposed New Structure
The proposed World Heritage Department has the following strategic objectives:

1. Manage the World Heritage Properties and conserve their OUV, authenticity and integrity.
2. Promote a participatory management approach based on engagement of all related stakeholders to run World Heritage Properties, especially for complex sites, e.g. landscape and historic cities.
3. Strengthen the international partnership to improve the management and conservation capacity of the World Heritage Properties.
4. Identify and promote the World Heritage Properties.
5. Build capacity for Palestinian professionals, site managers, engineers, conservers, and other individuals involved with WHPs.

The proposed World Heritage Department has the following responsibilities:

1. Supervise the preparation of nomination files for heritage sites on the Tentative List to be inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List.
2. Supervise the preparation of the Management and Conservation Plans for inscribed and nominated sites on the list, in cooperation with other stakeholders.
3. Oversee and monitor Palestinian sites in the Tentative List, updating and developing the list, adding new sites or removing existing ones that do not meet the OUV.
4. Conduct all required periodic technical reports and studies to the World Heritage Committee.
5. Contribute to removing the inscribed sites from the List of World Heritage in Danger by achieving the DSOCR and Corrective Measures.
6. Oversee and monitor the activities and projects that take place in the WHPs and affect their OUV.
7. Prevent the activities that have a significant adverse affect on the OUV.
8. Monitor the implementation of the ratified MCP with the cooperation of the related national and international stakeholders.
9. Develop mechanisms to seek funds to implement the MCP’s actions.
10. Implement awareness campaigns and workshops for the local community in the WHPs.
11. Promote and interpret the World Heritage Sites at a national and international level.

In addition to the responsibilities of MoTA’s World Heritage Department, it is also important to develop successful mechanisms for coordination between other stakeholders that have statutory or management responsibilities in the WHP. The proposed management system will include the following two main entities:

1. The MCP’s Steering Committee
2. The Site Management Committee

These two committees will play an essential role in encouraging, guiding, overseeing and monitoring progress, as well as reviewing and updating the Management and Conservation Plan.

6.1.2 The MCP’s Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC), which participated in the preparation of this MCP, will continue its efforts after the final MCP is developed, ratified, and implemented. This SC, which is headed by MoTA and comprised of representatives from other partners including the EQA, MoA, MoLG, Battir Municipality, Beit Jala Municipality, and Hussan Village Council, will continue to make key decisions and to monitor the implementation of the MCP at a local level according to the commitments and responsibilities set in the MCP’s Action Plan. Regular coordinating meetings between steering committee representatives shall be held three to four times annually.

![Steering Committee Diagram]
The Steering Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Monitor the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of the MCP each year.
2. Regularly review the MCP's relevant objectives, strategies, and action plans, and, if needed, propose modifications and/or additions.
3. Identify priorities relevant to their specific role for the annual action plan and report these as part of the ongoing MCP review and revision process.
4. Ensure that all necessary legal frameworks for the protection of the WHP are in place.
5. Seek funds for the implementation of the MCP's action plan.
6. Make decisions regarding new and future key management issues that will affect the OUV.

As previously mentioned, the steering committee is a decision making and advisory entity that is responsible for seeking funds, managing and monitoring the implementation of the MCP, and MoTA is the coordinator of this committee.

6.1.3 The Site Management Committee

In addition to the Steering Committee, it is essential to form a technical committee that will include technical representatives from the above Steering Committee, in addition to those who take part in day-to-day activities related to the WHP, such as representatives of the local community, private sector, and technical experts. The Site Management Committee (SMC) shall follow the mandate of the World Heritage Department in MoTA, and a Site Manager from MoTA shall be appointed to lead this committee. The partnership between the Site Manager (MoTA) and other SMC members is a vital and important factor in achieving comprehensive management and conservation of the property based on the MCP's objectives and out of the MoTA mandate.

In the case of the Battir WHP, the SMC will include a Site Manager from MoTA, technical representatives from EQA, MoA, MoLG, CCHP, the Battir Municipality (BM), Beit Jala Municipality (BJM), Hussan Village Council (HVC), representatives of the local community (RoLC), representatives of the private sector (RoPS), and other technical staff will be appointed as needed.

The Site Management Committee shall hold regular monthly meetings based on needs and the current activities being executed in the WHP, while the site manager shall have a permanent office in the site and coordinate and manage day-to-day activities taken place within the property.

The Site Manager's responsibilities are as follows:

1. Oversee and monitor the implementation of the MCP's objectives and actions.
2. Ensure implementation of the actions and activities of the MCP, and achievements of its pursued objectives, ensuring that they are implemented in conformity with the law.
3. Coordinate the implementation of the MCP's objectives and actions between related stakeholders according to their commitments and roles.
4. Organize regular meetings for all involved stakeholders and SMC, propose the meeting's agenda, and record meeting minutes.
5. Facilitate and seek funds for the implementation of the MCP's Action Plan.
6. Build up a comprehensive sustainable database for the WHP in cooperation with all related stakeholders.
7. Review the feedback of the MCP's implementation and update it regularly, and as necessary, in close coordination with the SMC and the SC.
8. Write regular technical reports about the progress.
of the implementation of the MCP, State of Conservation reports, and technical and financial proposals for the annual Action Plan.

9. Identify ways to increase public awareness and engagement of the local community in close coordination with the SMC.

10. Supervise the future activities that take place in the WHP and propose new management solutions or mechanisms to reduce adverse effects.

11. Prepare all required reports for MoTA and the WHP in cooperation with SMC.

The members of the Site Management Committee have the following responsibilities:

1. Implement the objectives, strategies and actions of the MCP with the aim of reaching comprehensive management, conservation, and valorisation of the WHP.

2. Contribute to developing several cultural activities to promote and interpret the WHP.

3. Contribute to improving the socioeconomic status of the local community, and the public-private partnership.

4. Contribute to developing a comprehensive sustainable database for the WHP, and be able to use the database when desired.

After developing the Operational Management System, which includes the SC and the SMC under the direct guidance of the MoTA, it is important to define the priorities for the MCP’s actions. This is a joint responsibility between the SC and SMC members, in response to the real needs of the property, focusing mainly on safeguarding the WHP’s OUV, integrity, and authenticity.

The SMC, in close collaboration with the SC, defines an annual Action Plan that includes a set of activities or projects that parallel the MCP’s objectives, to be undertaken in the WHP each year. This annual Action Plan shall cover the five themes established in the MCP, and shall be compatible with WHP’s vision, as well as fit current priorities.

These actions shall be defined in collaboration with the different involved bodies, and in consultation with concerned national and international stakeholders.

The following chart summarizes the WHP site management unit, which includes the Steering Committee, Site Manager, and Site Management Committee:

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Steering committee members must be decision makers, and the committee should consist of:
1. Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
2. Ministry of Local Government
3. Ministry of Agriculture
4. Environmental Quality Authority
5. Battir Municipality
6. Beit Jala Municipality
7. Hussan Village Council

Members of the Site Management Committee must have technical/specialized backgrounds, and should consist of:
1. Representative of MoTA (Site Manager)
2. Representative of Battir Municipality
3. Representative of Beit Jala Municipality
4. Representative of Hosan Village Council
5. Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture
6. Representative of the Environmental Quality Authority
7. Representative of the Ministry of Local Government
8. Representative of the Center of Cultural Heritage Preservation
9. Three Representatives of the local Community (One from Battir, one from Beit Jala, and one from Hussan)
10. Representative of the private sector

Employee of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
The following table summarizes the roles of the WHP site manager, steering committee, and site management committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Site Manager (MOTA)</th>
<th>Site Management Committee (SMC)</th>
<th>Steering Committee (SC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervising the implementation of the MCP and actions</td>
<td>Supervise the management of the WHP and implement the MCP recommendations with both general and specific strategies.</td>
<td>Supervise the implementation of the MCP</td>
<td>Mainstream the MCP and its main objectives and strategies within the national and local strategic and development planning framework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination, cooperation, and communication</td>
<td>Coordinate the implementation of actions and activities with the SMC and all other concerned parties.</td>
<td>Each member of the SMC is a representative of their institution and a link between the committee and their institution. Each member is also responsible for coordinating the implementation of projects within their institution.</td>
<td>Coordinate with the site manager to carry out actions, activities, events and projects in order to avoid repetition and overlapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coordinate between the SC on the decision-making level and the SMC on the technical level and ensure that all the MCP’s actions are implemented in conformity with the law.</td>
<td>Ensure that all legal frameworks are effective and work to conserve and enhance the WHP.</td>
<td>Ensure close cooperation among all stakeholders involved in the management of the WHP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrange and invite stakeholders to meetings, and take minutes at the meetings.</td>
<td>Ensure maximum communication and collaboration with stakeholders and other involved parties to implement the MCP.</td>
<td>Take advantage of all opportunities and skills to enhance the conservation and the promotion of the WHP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
<td>Help the SC in raising funds to enhance site management.</td>
<td>Recruit the necessary funds to implement the MCP, each member acts according to their specialization and authorities.</td>
<td>Secure the financial support needed for the management, conservation, and enhancement of the WHP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revising and updating the plan</td>
<td>Review the outcomes and recommendations of the MCP and update it periodically and as needed, with the cooperation of the SMC. Endorse the updates by the SC.</td>
<td>Work with the Site Manager to periodically review and update the outcomes and recommendations of the MCP.</td>
<td>Approve updates to the outcomes and recommendations of the MCP and approve the Site Manager’s proposals for adding or changing the members of the SMC.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local community engagement

Enhance community public awareness and engagement in coordination with the SMC and all other concerned parties. Enhance the socioeconomic situation for the local community and strengthen the partnership between the public and private sector. Implement planned actions to improve local community engagement.

Annual Action Plan

Work with SMC to prepare the annual Action Plan according to the MCP and to the priorities. Endorse the annual Action Plan by the SC. Work with the Site Manager to prepare the annual Action Plan. Approve the Annual Action Plan.

Monitoring and maintenance

Monitor the site and discuss the appropriate actions needed to deal with any possible threats to the site's OUV. Monitoring and maintenance of the WHP and submitting reports periodically to the Site Manager. Decide on significant interventions.

Reporting

Writing and submitting the required reports to the World Heritage Centre and/or its advisory committees. Provide the Site Manager with all information and reports needed for preparing the reports required by the World Heritage Centre and/or its advisory bodies. Approve the periodic reports.

Reporting on the implementation progress to the SC. Follow up on daily issues related to the WHP.

Develop a comprehensive database for the WHP’s attributes and features. Contribute to developing a comprehensive and sustainable database for the WHP, and have access to it.

Table 9 The Roles of the WHP Management System Unit

6.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Regular monitoring of the implementation of the Management and Conservation Plan is a crucial because such feedback can be used to inform improvement of the effectiveness and potential for success of this MCP.

A monitoring system shall be established to undertake the regular monitoring of the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone, in conjunction with the Site Management Committee, which is responsible for the implementation of the MCP. The monitoring system takes into account a number of key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of the property, as well as to review the progress in implementing the MCP’s objectives, strategies, and actions in light of the attributes of the OUV, in addition to contributing to the protection of the assets in the WHP through conservation and maintenance works in conformity with international standards, and the engagement of the local community in the WHP.
The monitoring shall be implemented according to the following indicators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Key Monitoring Indicators</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Responsible Entity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Planning</td>
<td>The management system is set with adequate staff</td>
<td>SC &amp; SMC are established &amp; operational; Technical team members hired to ensure adequate protection of the WHP &amp; successful implementation of the ratified MCP</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant interventions or</td>
<td>Number of HIA &amp; EIA carried out</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>development projects</td>
<td>Number &amp; amount of proposals &amp; funds secured for implementing the MCP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured financial resources</td>
<td>Number of rehabilitation projects as per international standards in the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop baseline database for the</td>
<td>Overall state of conservation of the watchtowers, canals &amp; other elements characterizing the cultural landscape</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>condition of the attributes</td>
<td>Number of documentation projects in the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Area of restored terraces</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation &amp; Protection</td>
<td>Increase in area size of cultivated land</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of the traditional</td>
<td>Annual amount of crops sold in local markets</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agrarian practices</td>
<td>The extent and percentage of farmers using the traditional water distribution system</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establishment of the agricultural product value chain through develop number of agro-tourism, organic cultivation projects and seasonal agricultural products fairs</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Length of restored traditional pathways</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation of the ecological</td>
<td>Number &amp; biodiversity of species in the WHP (flora &amp; fauna)</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; EQA</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; EQA</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system</td>
<td>Frequency of measuring water quality</td>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount of research, investigations, &amp; excavations conducted in the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 10 Monitoring Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter six</th>
<th>Capacity building of human resources</th>
<th>Site Manager &amp; SMC</th>
<th>Annually</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capacity building of human resources</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of training field schools for farmers &amp; researchers</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase inbound &amp; domestic visitors</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of inbound &amp; domestic visitors visiting the property is increased.</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop new tourist facilities</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of new tourist facilities is developed</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visitors’ experience is enhanced</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quality of visits (% of visitors satisfied)</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organize annual cultural activities</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of annual cultural activities</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve the quality of presentation and interpretation of the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of new interpretation panels throughout the property and number of promotional materials &amp; interpretive media</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop new tourism products supporting the identity of the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of the new tourism products</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engagement of the local community</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of community-based initiatives or investments</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of new jobs created within the local community</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase in public awareness</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of outreach programs for raising awareness in the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of documentary films produced on the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of public awareness campaigns in the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WHP’s infrastructure, services, &amp; accessibility</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of projects undertaken in the WHP to improve street infrastructure</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of new established cultural &amp; social facilities in the WHP</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mitigate the most urgent environmental problems</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adequate sewage system to protect water quality</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Efficient solid waste management system</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of removed dump areas</td>
<td>Site Manager &amp; SMC</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOLUME TWO
Action Plan
1. MCP ACTION PLAN

The Management and Conservation Plan objectives set out in the previous volume are elaborated by a set of strategies, and achieved through a wide range of activities, projects, and actions that may be undertaken by a variety of stakeholders involved in the MCP preparation. Whether these projects are implemented by a single entity or require a partnership approach, it is of fundamental importance that they are conceived, designed, and implemented within the framework established by the MCP.

The following Action Plan provides a blueprint of specific activities within every management theme for a period of ten years (2018-2027), which is segmented into three timeframes: short term (2018-2020), mid term (2021-2024), and long term (2025-2027). This detailed outline was prepared in order to ensure the Action Plan’s implementation and to secure funds. For each action, the plan also identifies the lead organization and partners involved, the desired timeframe for implementation, and the resources needed, in addition to output or success indicators.

The Action Plan will also provide an opportunity to monitor progress towards achieving the MCP’s objectives and will be used annually to develop a work program.

To prioritize the developed actions, three levels were identified: Priority one includes all critical actions that shall be implemented on the short-term; priority two includes the actions that shall be implemented on the mid-term; and priority three includes long term actions.

2. ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACs</th>
<th>Current Agricultural Cooperatives in the WHP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCHP</td>
<td>Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environment Impact Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>Environmental Quality Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIA</td>
<td>Heritage Impact Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSC</td>
<td>Joint Services Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSCTDB</td>
<td>Joint Service Council for Tourism Development of Bethlehem Governorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDLF</td>
<td>Municipal Development and Lending Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoA</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoC</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoF</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoFA</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoI</td>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoL</td>
<td>Ministry of Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoLG</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoM</td>
<td>Ministry of Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWA</td>
<td>Palestinian Water Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Municipalities</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, Beit Jala Municipality, Hussan Village Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMC</td>
<td>Site Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHC</td>
<td>World Heritage Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHCom</td>
<td>World Heritage Committee</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. ACTION PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING THEME

Objective 1: To put in place an effective management framework to conserve and safeguard the cultural landscape of the World Heritage Property, its OUV, and its authenticity and integrity.

Strategy 1.1 – Public officials, institutions, and agencies responsible for undertaking activities within the WHP or who may have an impact on its OUV shall also formally endorse the MCP.

Strategy 1.2 – The MCP shall be ratified by key Palestinian Cabinet members, if needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 1: Approval of the MCP by the WHC &amp; WHCom (St.1.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoFA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The MCP is adopted &amp; approved by WHCom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 2: Ratification of the MCP by key stakeholders &amp; Cabinet if needed (St.1.1 &amp; St.1.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoA, EQA, MoLG &amp; related municipalities</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Ratification of the MCP by key stakeholders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 2: To set out an operational management system for the WHP that supervises the implementation of its MCP.

Strategy 2.1 – MoTA shall develop its institutional structure to include a practical management structure for the WHP, which will ensure effective and efficient management of the WHP and allow implementation of its MCP based on full cooperation with related key stakeholders who have statutory or management responsibilities within the WHP.

Strategy 2.2 – Sustain the Steering Committee that was established for the preparation of the MCP as an advisory body to oversee the implementation of the MCP and to facilitate the decision-making process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 3: Establish the Site Management structure &amp; committees (Steering Committee &amp; Site Management Committee) (St.2.1 &amp; St.2.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoTA, MoA, EQA, MoLG, &amp; related municipalities</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Establishment of the site management structure &amp; the two related committees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 3: To synergize and mainstream the MCP within the national and local planning framework, for the benefit of the property and its inhabitants.

Strategy 3.1 – The strategic and physical plans that are prepared by the three related municipalities (Battir, Beit Jala, and Hussan) with MoLG and MDLF shall be in line with the MCP’s objectives and strategies.

Strategy 3.2 – Any study or plan prepared by other NGOs and civil societies shall be in line with the MCP’s objectives and strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 4: Strategic plans of the three municipalities in the WHP shall be consistent within the framework of the MCP’s objectives &amp; strategies (St.3.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoLG, Battir Municipality, Beit Jala Municipality, Hussan village council, Joint services Council (JSC)</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Objectives &amp; strategies of the MCP are integrated within the Municipalities’ strategic plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 5: Any future plans related to the WHP shall be consistent with the framework of the MCP’s objectives &amp; strategies (St.3.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoLG, related NGO’s, &amp; civil societies</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Objectives &amp; strategies of the MCP are integrated within any future plan or study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 4: To ensure that any project planned or implemented within the property should sustain its OUV and its supporting attributes.

Strategy 4.1 – Conduct appropriate HIA and/or EIA impact assessments prior to the implementation of any significant intervention or proposed development within the WHP.

Strategy 4.2 – Conduct appropriate impact assessments mechanism prior to the implementation of any intervention within the WHP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 6: Conduct HIA &amp;/or EIA assessments prior to implementation of any significant intervention within the WHP (St.4.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>EIA &amp; HIA for significant interventions is enforced &amp; implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Objective 5: To secure financial resources and develop innovative mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the management system of the WHP.**

**Strategy 5.1 – Set mechanisms to secure financial resources needed for the implementation of the MCP, such as creating a coordinating body for donors.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 8: Secure enough funding for MCP implementation (St.5.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoA, EQA, MoLG, related NGOs, &amp; municipalities</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Funds secured for future interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 9: Set out projects and activities to create new job opportunities for the local community (St.5.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoTA, MoA, EQA, MoLG, related NGOs, &amp; municipalities</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>New job opportunities are created</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 6: To develop conservation preventive measures and alterations to mitigate threats and risks against the WHP.**

**Strategy 6.1 – A Risk Management system shall be established for the WHP.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 10: Prepare a Risk Management Plan for the WHP (St.6.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>EQA, MoA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Risk Management Plan is prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 11: Prepare preventive conservation mechanisms to mitigate urgent threats by human and natural forces (St.6.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>EQA, MoA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Preventive conservation mechanisms are set</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 7: To strengthen the legislations and regulations for conservation and protection of the cultural landscape, the historic old core, the archaeological remains, and the physical attributes of the OUV.

Strategy 7.1 – Develop good conservation practice measures for the WHP that are based on a multidisciplinary approach in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. These measures shall guide all physical conservation interventions on the property, taking into consideration various cultural and natural values of the property and their physical attributions.

Strategy 7.2 – Enact heritage protection legal frameworks in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to regulate urban expansion within the WHP, ensuring that new houses and buildings fit harmoniously with the property’s cultural heritage. Any new construction shall be compatible with the traditional context of the WHP.

Strategy 7.3 – Develop a land use zoning plan and land use restrictions for the WHP, taking into consideration the long and complex history of human activities in the WHP and ensuring appropriate conservation and sustainable development of the property.

Strategy 7.4 – Agricultural development and practices taken place in the WHP shall be consistent with the MCP objectives and strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 12: Prepare a Conservation Manuals for the WHP's attributes (St.7.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>EQA, MoA, CCHP &amp; UNESCO Ramallah office</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>MoTA, UNESCO</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Conservation Manuals are prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 13: Prepare heritage protection bylaws that regulate urban expansion within WHP (St.7.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>EQA, MoA, CCHP &amp; UNESCO Ramallah office</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>MoLG &amp; MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Heritage protection bylaws are prepared &amp; enforced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 14: Delineate cemetery borders (St.7.1)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>MoTA, MoA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The cemetery bounders are delineated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 15: Develop a detailed Land Use Zoning Plan for the WHP (St.7.3)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoLG, MoA, JSC</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Land Use Zoning Plan is developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 16: Set a mechanism for granting permissions for activities undertaken in the WHP (St.7.4)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoLG, MoA, EQA, related municipalities</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>Not Needed</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Permission procedures are prepared &amp; used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 8: To conserve and improve conditions of the physical attributes of the cultural landscape and their integrity and authenticity

Strategy 8.1 – The WHP’s attributes must be permanently and systematically conserved and maintained in order to keep its features in good condition and to ensure the safety of their users.

Strategy 8.2 – Set out an effective monitoring system with practical indicators to measure the progress of implementation conservation measures.

Strategy 8.3 – All features of the WHP should be comprehensively documented. Documentation should be conducted carefully and precede any conservation interventions undertaken within the property.

Strategy 8.4 – All types and levels of conservation interventions in the WHP should be planned and implemented in line with international management and conservation best practices, taking into consideration the four key pillars of conservation accepted worldwide: minimum intervention, reversibility, compatibility, and documentation.

Strategy 8.5 – Maintain the system of traditional paths (principal and secondary) running through the valleys and agricultural terraces. This system must be restored in order to improve accessibility of the property.

Strategy 8.6 – Appropriate conservation interventions should be utilized to prevent erosion, landslides, regulate surface water, and keep the momentum of using local and native varieties of agricultural crops.

Strategy 8.7 – Agricultural terraces and dry-stone landscapes should be documented, and assessed to prioritize their protection, conservation, and renovation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 17: Develop comprehensive, detailed documentation of the WHP’s attributes (St.8.3)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoA, EQA, CCHP, UNESCO Ramallah office</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The WHP’s attributes are comprehensively documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 18: Rehabilitate dry stone walls &amp; agricultural terraces (St.8.1, 8.5, 8.6, &amp; 8.7)</td>
<td>MoA</td>
<td>MoTA, related NGOs</td>
<td>Short term: 30% of dry stone walls maintained Mid term: 60% maintained Long term: 80% maintained</td>
<td>2018-2020 2021-2024 2025-2027</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Most dry stone walls &amp; agricultural terraces are well maintained &amp; restored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 19: Develop projects for conservation of the watchtowers (St.8.1, 8.4)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoTA, MoA, related NGOs</td>
<td>Short term: 30% of watch towers maintained Mid term: 50% maintained Long term: 60% maintained</td>
<td>2018-2020 2021-2024 2025-2026</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>60% of watch towers are conserved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Responsible</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Rehabilitate irrigation system (pools, canals &amp; springs) (St.8.1, 8.4)</td>
<td>MoA, Battir Municipality, related NGOs</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>Most of the irrigation system is maintained &amp; restored</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Develop projects to conserve limekilns in the WHP (St.8.1, 8.4)</td>
<td>MoTA, Battir Municipality</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>Limekilns maintained &amp; restored</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Establish comprehensive documentation projects for archaeological sites &amp; features in the WHP (St.8.3)</td>
<td>MoTA, UNESCO Ramallah office, and related academic institutions</td>
<td>2025-2027</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>Archaeological remains are well documented</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Establish comprehensive documentation projects for historical buildings of Battir (St.8.3)</td>
<td>MoTA, Battir Municipality</td>
<td>Mid term 2021-2023</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>Documentation of the historical buildings in Battir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Develop new building codes for various alterations to existing &amp; new buildings in the WHP (St.8.1 &amp; 8.3)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, Hussan Village Council, MoTA, MoLG</td>
<td>Short term 2019-2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>Building codes are developed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Put in place practical solutions for fragmentation of historical buildings and land plots ownership (St.8.1, 8.3 &amp; 8.7)</td>
<td>MoLG, MoA, Battir Municipality, MoTA</td>
<td>Short term 2019</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>New mechanisms for fragmentation of historical buildings ownership are established</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Prepare a list of conservation priorities for historical buildings (St.8.1)</td>
<td>MoTA, Battir Municipality</td>
<td>Mid term 2021</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>Conservation interventions are prioritized for historic buildings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Beautify Battir’s main historical street, including its attached shops elevations, signs, &amp; canopies (St.8.1)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, MoTA</td>
<td>Short term 2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>Battir’s main historical street is enhanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Develop a monitoring system with measurable indicators to verify implementation of conservation interventions (St.8.2)</td>
<td>MoTA, CCHR, related NGOs &amp; municipalities</td>
<td>Short term 2018-2020</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>The monitoring system is defined &amp; used</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Action 29: Map the ownership pattern of the agricultural lands (St.8.7)  
MoA, MoTA, ACs, related NGOs & municipalities  
Short term  
2018-2020  
To be secured  
#1  
The ownership pattern is clear

Action 30: Improve the accessibility of the agricultural lands by restoring traditional paths (St.8.5 & 8.7)  
MoA  
MoTA, ACs  
Mid term  
2022-2024  
To be secured  
#2  
Traditional paths are well restored

Action 31: Prepare a list of priorities for future reclamation interventions of agricultural terraces & lands (St.8.7)  
MoA  
MoTA, ACs, & related municipalities  
Short term  
2018-2019  
To be secured  
#1  
Future land reclamation of agricultural lands is prioritized according to needs

Action 32: Prepare a list of priorities for land recovery interventions (St.8.7, 8.6)  
MoA  
MoTA, ACs, Battir Municipality  
Short term  
2018-2019  
To be secured  
#2  
Future land recovery plans are prioritized according to needs

Objective 9: To establish a research framework for archaeological and ecological investigations (surveys and excavations) and to save and transmit the local oral cultural heritage and traditional knowledge to future generations in the WHP.

Strategy 9.1 – Further archaeological excavations and ecological investigations shall be executed in the WHP and other surveys shall be undertaken to investigate the richness and diversity of the cultural landscape of the property.

Strategy 9.2 – Whenever archaeological excavations are undertaken, they should use non-destructive methods and techniques as much as possible, and should not destroy any more heritage evidence than is necessary for the fulfillment of scientific objectives.

Strategy 9.3 – Conservation preventive approach should be used to protect vulnerable cultural heritage remains. The reburial method shall be used whenever archaeological heritage remains are rapidly deteriorated and add little to visitor experience.

Strategy 9.4 – Enhance the partnership between the public and private sector in the conservation field.

Strategy 9.5 – Enhance scientific research on the cultural landscape in cooperation with universities and research centres.

Strategy 9.6 – Rescue archaeological surveys and excavations shall be used prior to any development intervention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 33: Conduct archaeological surveys of the WHP’s archaeological remains (e.g., ancient roads, oil presses, tombs, caves) (St.9.1 &amp; 9.5)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Related academic institutions</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Archeological surveys report, database &amp; maps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 10: To enhance and conserve traditional agrarian practices and knowledge to be transmitted to future generations.

Strategy 10.1 – Sustain local traditional agricultural products through the product value chain model at the local and regional level.

Strategy 10.2 – Traditional agrarian practices, water distribution rights, and customs shall be documented, studied and preserved through sustainable interventions.

Strategy 10.3 – Develop networks at the regional, national and international levels in order to share information, and diffuse and promote local products and initiatives.

Strategy 10.4 – The WHP’s agricultural lands 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.
### Objective 11: To conserve the biodiversity and natural ecosystem of the WHP.

**Strategy 11.1** – Ensure the sustainable use of the WHP’s ecological resources through both traditional and modern practices, including creating ‘green areas’ and encouraging the cultivation of native trees on private property to control soil and water pollution.

**Strategy 11.2** – Implement a species conservation and recovery program that would include such activities as removing and combating invasive species in favour of native ones.

**Strategy 11.3** – Regular inspection of water resource quality to mitigate contamination and protect wildlife and greater ecosystem.

### Action(s) Lead Partner Other Partners Timeframe Year(s) Funding Priority Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 44: Conduct a comprehensive survey of flora &amp; fauna in the WHP (St.11.2)</td>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>MoTA, MoA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Flora &amp; fauna are comprehensively surveyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Responsible Parties</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Action 45: Highlight the ecosystem services in the WHP (St.11.1)</td>
<td>EQA, MoTA, MoA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2021</td>
<td>EQA #2</td>
<td>The ecosystem services are identified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 46: Encourage inhabitants to create green areas, &amp; encourage planting of trees (St.11.1)</td>
<td>MoA, EQA, MoTA, related municipalities</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2021</td>
<td>Not needed #2</td>
<td>WHP has protected green areas with native species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 47: Prevention of hunting &amp; tree removal by enforcing environmental &amp; agricultural laws (St.11.2)</td>
<td>MoA, EQA, MoTA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Not needed #1</td>
<td>Numbers of species conserved and increased</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 48: Reduce presence of invasive species in the WHP (St.11.2)</td>
<td>EQA, MoTA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2022-2024</td>
<td>EQA #2</td>
<td>Number of invasive species is reduced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 49: Regular cleaning of the channels &amp; pools to protect from weeds &amp; accumulating algae (St.11.3)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality &amp; Hussan Village Council, MoTA, ACs</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>Not needed #1</td>
<td>The irrigation system is clean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 50: Periodic inspection of water resource quality &amp; prevention of pollution (St.11.3)</td>
<td>EQA, MoA, related municipalities, PWA</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>Not needed #1</td>
<td>Clean water resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 51: Construction of water reservoir to collect flowing water from Ein Balad spring during winter season (St.11.3)</td>
<td>MoA, Battir Municipality, MoTA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>To be secured #3</td>
<td>Water reservoir is built</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 52: Initiate agricultural projects to promote local &amp; native varieties of seasonal agricultural crops (St.11.2)</td>
<td>MoA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2022-2024</td>
<td>To be secured #3</td>
<td>Local &amp; native crops are protected &amp; promoted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 53: Enhance the capacity &amp; capability of the Eco-Museum to manage &amp; conserve the cultural landscape of the WHP (St.11.2)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, MoTA, EQA, MoA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2021</td>
<td>To be secured #1</td>
<td>Eco-Museum is improved &amp; enabled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 12: To enhance the capacity of human resources within the WHP

Strategy 12.1 – Initiate systematic training programs for building capacity of local conservators, architects, and engineers in the appropriate and best conservation practices related to cultural landscape issues.

Strategy 12.2 – Build capacity of local farmers and landowners in the appropriate modern cultivation techniques, alternative organic agriculture practices, and the use of bio-control agents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 54: Organize systematic training programs, specialized trainings &amp; workshops for local restorers, archaeologists, architects &amp; engineers (St.12.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>CCHP, UNESCO Ramallah office</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2021</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Skilled &amp; qualified local professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 55: Organize systematic training programs, specialized trainings &amp; workshops for local farmers, volunteers &amp; landowners (St.12.2)</td>
<td>MoA</td>
<td>Related municipalities, ACs</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2022-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Skilled local farmers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. ACTION PLAN FOR TOURISM AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT THEME

Objective 13: To develop sustainable tourism facilities and services in full partnership with private sector stakeholders, while respecting the OUV of the WHP and the traditional values of the local community.

Strategy 13.1 – Visitor management policy of the WHP shall follow national and international guidance on sustainable tourism.

Strategy 13.2 – Set out mechanisms to minimize the adverse impact of tourist practices within the WHP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
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<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 56: Establish a mechanism to minimize the adverse impact of tourist practices in the WHP (St. 13.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, JSCTDB</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Mitigation mechanisms are set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 57: Conduct a tourism assessment study in the WHP (St.13.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>JSCTDB</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The tourism assessment study is prepared</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 14: To develop a safe and secure tourism infrastructure within the WHP to cater to various types of visitors, taking into account the vulnerability of the surrounding cultural landscape.

Strategy 14.1 – Upgrade tourism-related infrastructure based on sustainable principles to be compatible with the cultural landscape.

Strategy 14.2 – Enhance the safety and security of WHP users.

Strategy 14.3 – Tourism related facilities (e.g., restaurants, guest houses, coffee shops, souvenir shops, WC units, parks) should be evenly developed throughout the property to fairly distribute economic revenue among the local community. Distribution should be based on a comprehensive assessment of needs and consultation with the local community.

Strategy 14.4 – Enhance the competency of local tourism professionals through formal vocational tourism trainings to build skills (e.g., tour-guiding, marketing, hospitality).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 58: Rehabilitate four old buildings for use as guest houses (St.14.1, 14.3)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>MoTA, related NGOs</td>
<td>Mid term: 2 guest houses</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Four guesthouses are rehabilitated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long term: 2 guest houses</td>
<td>2025-2027</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 59: Rehabilitate three old buildings for use as restaurants (St.14.1, 14.3)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, MoTA, related NGOs</td>
<td>Mid term: 1 structure</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Three structures are rehabilitated &amp; used as restaurants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long term: 2 structures</td>
<td>2025-2027</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 60: Rehabilitate two old buildings: one to be used as a traditional cultural museum &amp; the other to be used as a souvenir shop (St.14.1, 14.3)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>MoTA, related NGOs</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2022-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>The two buildings are rehabilitated &amp; used as a museum &amp; a souvenir shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 61: Establish two pay toilets in the WHP (St.14.1, 14.3)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Two pay toilets are established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 62: Enhance the Battir Open Garden’s ability to cater to visitors (St.14.1, 14.3)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The open garden is enhanced to cater well to visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 63: Provide a high level of public safety &amp; security for users of the WHP (St.14.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Related municipalities, Mol</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2022-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>The WHP is safe &amp; secure for locals &amp; visitors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 15: To holistically and meaningfully interpret and present the WHP to visitors and the local community.

Strategy 15.1 – The interpretation and presentation of the WHP should emerge from a holistic scientific approach designed for the entire area, and should be based on effective engagement of the related stakeholders.

Strategy 15.2 – The interpretation and presentation should be based on the WHP’s OUV and other cultural and natural values of the property.

Strategy 15.3 – Meaningful interpretive messages should be conveyed to visitors by using various presentation and interpretation mechanisms and means, including an interpretation centre, museum, interpretive signs, attractive written materials, audio-visual presentations, 3D models, and so forth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
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<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 69: Develop interpretation panels throughout the property (St.15.1, 15.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Interpretation panels are posted throughout the WHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 70: Develop &amp; print qualitative &amp; quantitative promotional materials detailing the WHP’s values (St.15.1, 15.3)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>EQA, JSCTDB, related municipalities</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Qualitative &amp; quantitative promotional materials are available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 16: To promote the WHP on a national and international level.

Strategy 16.1 – Promote the image of WHP as a cultural and eco-tourism destination.

Strategy 16.2 – Income generation and job-creation activities should be developed within the local community with the aim to encourage local residents of the WHP to enhance community-based tourism.

Strategy 16.3 – Different local tourism agencies shall include the WHP in their tourist packages.

Strategy 16.4 – Organize a series of regular and seasonal cultural activities on the property to demonstrate its cultural values, including traditional markets, photo and book exhibitions, a Battiri eggplant festival, and so forth.

Strategy 16.5 – Develop new tourism products in the WHP based on its values and identity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
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<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 71: Encourage the local tourism agencies to include responsible tourism in the WHP (St.16.1, 16.3)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>JSCTDB</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The WHP is included in local tourist packages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 72: Develop a promotion plan for the WHP (St.16.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>JSCTDB</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>A promotion plan is developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 73: Organize a series of seasonal cultural activities in the WHP (St.16.4)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>JSCTDB, related municipalities, MoC</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>4-5 seasonal cultural activities are planned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 74: Establish a website &amp; social media page to promote &amp; market the WHP (St.16.1 &amp; 16.4)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>JSCTDB, related municipalities</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Websites &amp; social media page are established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 75: Promote local traditional products, cuisines, handicrafts, &amp; other products as a brand for the property (St.16.5)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>JSCTDB, related municipalities</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>New local products are promoted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 76: Enhance community based tourism within the WHP (St.16.1 &amp;16.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>JSCTDB, related municipalities, EQA, Related NGOs, private sector</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2023</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Community-based tourism is developed in the WHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 77: Establish a cultural heritage museum in the WHP to reinforce &amp; promote the identity of the local community by highlighting traditional lifestyle, agricultural tools, clothes, &amp; products (St.16.1&amp;16.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>Long term</td>
<td>2025-2027</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Cultural heritage museum is established</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 6. ACTION PLAN FOR ENGAGEMENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS THEME

**Objective 17:** To achieve a sustainable planning and development of the World Heritage Property based on the local community needs and desires.

**Strategy 17.1** – Orient community-based initiatives and investments to support economic revitalization of the WHP.

**Strategy 17.2** – Implement income generation and job-creation projects and actions with the aim to improve the socioeconomic status of the local community.

**Strategy 17.3** – Ensure participation of the local community in planning and implementation of any conservation or development plan related to the WHP.

**Strategy 17.4** – The WHP’s local community should be the primary beneficiary of any tourism related activity, such as training, employment, and any other type of economic activity relevant to tourism development within the WHP area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 78: Establish a network between the local community &amp; other key stakeholders (e.g., tourism stakeholders, educational stakeholders) (St.17.1, 17.3)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Related municipalities, local community members, MoTA, MoE, MoF, &amp; others</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2020, 2021-2024</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>The network is established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 79: Providing economic incentives for shopkeepers, owners &amp; inhabitants who invest in the WHP (St.17.2, 17.4)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA, MoF, MoE.</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Economic initiatives framework is established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 80: Securing low vat loans for local investors in tourism industry (St.17.2, 17.4)</td>
<td>MoTA, MoF</td>
<td>Local banks, loans foundations, related municipalities, MoTA, MoF</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Low vat loans are secured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 18:** To enhance public awareness of the importance of the Cultural Landscape of the WHP among the local community, visitors, stakeholders, and other decision makers.

**Strategy 18.1** – The WHP should be promoted as an integral part of the socioeconomic context of Battir and surrounding communities.

**Strategy 18.2** – Develop sustainable outreach strategies and programs to demonstrate the World Heritage Property’s values for the local community and visitors alike.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
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<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 81: Increase public awareness of the WHP’s values through promotional materials, (e.g., leaflets, lectures, site visits) (St.18.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoE, MoC, MoA, EQA, related municipalities</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Ample amount of promotional materials is accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 82: Promote the WHP’s values on the national &amp; international media &amp; websites (St.18.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, MoM, tour operators, MoE, EQA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>The values of the property are well promoted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 83: Integrate the WHP into the school curriculum (St.18.2)</td>
<td>MoE</td>
<td>MoTA, EQA, MoA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>MoE</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Meaningful information about the WHP is integrated within the school curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 84: Organize awareness campaigns for residents &amp; property owners to encourage investments in the abandoned historical buildings along the old street, &amp; in the seventh widow’s quarter (St.18.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, local inhabitants</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The historical buildings are conserved &amp; used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 85: Initiate outreach campaigns for residents, university, &amp; school students about the values of the WHP (St.18.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Battir Municipality, MoC, related NGOs</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Number of outreach programs &amp; campaigns held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 86: Develop documentary films on the history of WHP to be displayed in schools, in media, to visitors, &amp; on websites (St.18.1)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>MoM, MoA, EQA, MoE</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Two documentary films are developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 87: Develop educational &amp; public awareness campaigns in the WHP with various concerned institutions (e.g., universities, colleges &amp; research institutions) (St.18.2)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Universities, colleges, MoE, MoC, MoTA, &amp; research institutions</td>
<td>Life of the MCP</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Educational &amp; public awareness campaigns are organized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 7. ACTION PLAN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY THEME

**Objective 19:** To enhance the WHP’s infrastructure, services, and accessibility.

**Strategy 19.1** – Improve the scenery of the WHP, including improving street infrastructure, signage, pavement, footpaths, and accessibility to different components of the WHP.

**Strategy 19.2** – Enhance and maintain public and institutional infrastructure.

**Strategy 19.3** – Establish cultural and social facilities within the WHP.

**Strategy 19.4** – Organize and strengthen public transportation services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 88: Enhance the internal &amp; external roads within the WHP (St.19.1, 19.2)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoLG</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 89: Renovate Hassan Mustafa school playground (St.19.1, 19.2)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>MoE</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Hassan Mustafa school playground is renovated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 90: Establish children's gardens in the WHP (St.19.1,19.3)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Two children's gardens are established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 91: Establish three sightseeing platforms in the WHP (St.19.1,19.3)</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Three sightseeing platforms are established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 92: Post directional road signs both inside &amp; along the roads leading to the WHP (St.19.1)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Direction road signs are posted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 93: Establish three parking lots within the WHP (St.19.1, 19.2)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The parking lots are established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 94: Establish four bus stops within the WHP (St.19.1, 19.2)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA</td>
<td>Short term: 2 built</td>
<td>Mid term: 2 built</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 20: To solve and mitigate the most urgent environmental problems: water pollution, solid waste dumps, and soil pollution.

Strategy 20.1 – Put in place an efficient mechanism to protect water quality within the WHP.

Strategy 20.2 – Enacting bylaws and regulations to mitigate environmental problems in the WHP.

Strategy 20.3 – Develop a solid waste management system to remove and treat waste within the WHP.

Strategy 20.4 – Promote educational programs for schools and awareness campaigns for the local community on environmental protection and related topics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action(s)</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 96: Develop projects to establish an adequate sewage system (St.20.1)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoLG</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>Long term</td>
<td>MDLF</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Three projects for developing the sewage system are implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 97: Forbid construction of new houses without sealed septic tanks (St.20.2)</td>
<td>Battir Municipality</td>
<td>MoLG</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Not Needed</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>All new houses are built with sealed septic tanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 98: Enact bylaws &amp; regulations to minimize environmental pollution (St.20.3)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>EQA, MoA, MoTA</td>
<td>Mid &amp; long terms</td>
<td>2021-2028</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>70% of the pollution problems are resolved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 99: Develop a solid waste management system for the WHP (St.20.4)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA, EQA, MoA</td>
<td>Short &amp; Mid terms</td>
<td>2018-2024</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>A solid waste management system is established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 100: Develop projects to solve the solid waste problem in the WHP (St.20.4)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA, MoLG</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>The solid waste problem is resolved &amp; the WHP is clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 101: Recruit enough human resources to keep the WHP clean (St.20.4)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td></td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>To be secured</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>More human resources are recruited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 102: Develop outreach campaigns to raise public awareness on environmental protection &amp; related topics (St.20.5)</td>
<td>Related municipalities</td>
<td>MoTA, related municipalities</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>EQA</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Public awareness is increased on environmental protection issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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