

Physical Planning as a Tool for the Conservation and Management of Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Palestinian Territories

By

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1. Abstract:

There is a growing recognition that cultural and natural heritage and its conservation is a shared responsibility of all levels of government, proponents, and members of a community. We are now gradually moving away from simply making an inventory of heritage resources, to an integrated and interlinked approach to heritage management. Heritage is more than a record of the past – it is becoming an integral part of the urban identity now, and for the future. Conserving this precious and ancient heritage has been a challenge to both governments as well as the civil society at large. This is particularly true for city governments that are in “direct contact” with the manifestations of heritage at the local level.

It is important, therefore, to place the issues of heritage conservation within the overall process of urban development, as well as interlink it with other issues such as tourism development, revitalization of the local economy and local governance. In responding to pressures for the future, inherent in its development pressures, economic conditions, and drive for modernization, it is vital not only to protect tourism resources, but also to promote community development that focuses on cultural landscapes.

The resources of Palestine including both natural (landscape and agricultural land) and man-made (cultural or built heritage in terms of individual buildings of historic or architectural interest, historic towns of many cities, the separate cultural and spatial identity of the villages, and archaeological remains of great number and variety) features are of great beauty and distinction. However, all of these features are under threat due to the long period of occupation and the absence of proper planning policies at the national, regional and local levels. In addition, they could be threatened by the future development of both urban and rural settlements.

This, as a result would emphasize the significance of physical planning as a tool for dealing with all the above mentioned issues both to present solution for the continuous urban growth and development and to offer policies and strategies for the conservation and renewal of the old and historic areas. In addition, this would also emphasize the urgent need for dealing with the resulted damage during the last two years in terms of emergency planning and post-war reconstruction and planning.

2. Scope and Objectives:

Palestine has been, throughout its long history, one of the major cultural and religious centers of mankind. Spanning well over 7,000 years and located in the heart of the Middle East, Palestine has been endowed with a very rich and varied cultural heritage.

Cultural heritage is one of the most important historical and geographical components in Palestine. More than 6000 sites, most of them unexcavated, can be found in the Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza). However, proper protection and conservation of this heritage was not a major concern of British, Jordanian or Israeli authorities. This in turn resulted in incalculable losses of important material through illegal trade and direct destruction. The construction of Israeli settlements, bypass roads, and separation wall also negatively affected and still affect the natural landscapes of Palestine. Moreover, the continuous invasion and occupation of Israeli military to most of the cities and towns in the West Bank and Gaza since April 2001 resulted in severe damage and destruction of the old cores and historical buildings in these areas (such as the historic core of Nablus City).

The major aim of this research is ***to investigate and determine the role of physical planning in the conservation, restoration and management of cultural and natural heritage in the Palestinian Territories (PT), West Bank and Gaza Strip.*** In addition, this research will include some appropriate planning strategies and policies for dealing with the cultural and natural heritage in these territories.

3. Methodology:

The procedure of this research has been undertaken in three basic parts. In the first part, the existing concepts, policies, strategies, theories, and case studies about the relationship between planning and cultural and natural heritage, and the use of planning as a tool for the conservation and management of this heritage is studied. This part was done through the descriptive method of research. In the second part, the related database about physical planning and cultural and natural heritage in Palestine is provided using the historical descriptive and comparative research methodology. This includes the development of physical planning during the previous periods as well as the existing situation. Finally, the third part is related to the analysis and evaluation of the existing planning system and the provision of certain appropriate planning policies and strategies concerning the conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in the Palestinian Territories. Also, this part includes the evaluation of the existing master plans and the possibility of discussing a pilot master plan. This part is undertaken through the analytical and evaluative methodology using certain techniques and models.

4. Theoretical Background:

Conceiving cultural heritage in the widest perspective shows its intimate connection with the general economic and land-use planning of the society. This also means that policies for protection, conservation and rehabilitation of cultural resources should be understood as an essential part of the global policies and strategies for planning and management of the changing world. Rapid global industrialization and explosive increase of population in many regions of the world after the 2nd World War have boosted rapid metropolization especially in developing countries. Particularly in recent years this has resulted in an emphasis on service industries, a general trend towards free market economy, and throughout this period in an indiscriminate consumption of the world's resources. These trends have alarmed many governments and the international community, and as a consequence, action has been taken by the United Nations to guide sustainable development with due attention to renewable and non-renewable resources. As a result,

several countries have further developed their national policies on this basis. National strategies for sustainable development included also the built heritage, historic towns, rural villages, and cultural landscapes as an essential part of resource management planning (Jokilehto, 1996).

A city has been defined as place where one finds things different from what one was initially searching. A city is therefore potentially an enriching experience, a place that can strengthen cultural diversity, and contribute to cultural development. Cities were also places of production. A well-managed city can still have this role for cultural innovation. Particularly, large cities have, however, changed from their original cultural aspect and have become places that more easily divide people than unite them; they produce isolation rather than cultural diversity. Once there was a difference between city and country, today there is difference within the city itself. A metropolis is generally formed of a chain of urban centers that have lost their urban significance, and have rather taken the negative aspect of urban context (Jokilehto, 1996).

The task of conservation planning and management of urban areas is to provide a structure for the construction of a new quality of life. This is not the question only of preserving single historic monuments or places, although these will contribute to enriching the historical stratigraphy. It is more a question of looking beyond the usual horizon of conservation planning in restricted historic areas, and to integrate the methodologies at the level of regional planning. It is a question of sustainable human development and consequent resource management. It is a question of education and training, of multidisciplinary collaboration, and of communication between the population and the decision making bodies (Jokilehto, 1996).

5. Conservation of Architectural Heritage in Palestinian Territories:

5.1. Overview:

The concept of 'architectural heritage' is used to include all immovable cultural property in the PT. It is classified into the following four components (Fethi, 1997):

- 1) Monuments or individual buildings of outstanding architectural and/or historical interest; such as the Dome of the Rock, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem; the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem; Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi in Hebron; and the main mosque in Nablus.
- 2) Historic urban cores or groups of buildings of architectural and/or historical value, such as the old cores of the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Nablus, and Bethlehem.
- 3) Rural settlements and villages of architectural and/or historical, scenic interest (also known as throne villages); like Deir Ghassaneh (near Ramallah), Yatta (Ner Hebron), Artas (near Bethlehem), Beit Wazan and Deir Istia (near Nablus), Kur (near Tulkarem), and Arrabeh (near Jenin).
- 4) Archaeological sites ruins; like urban and rural locations in Jerusalem, Jericho, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Sabastia.

The absence of a national inventory of architectural heritage in Palestine is a serious defect, which must be addressed promptly. Some surveys have been conducted by the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), Center for Architectural Conservation (RIWAQ), and the Departments of Architecture in An-Najah and Birzeit Universities. However, they remain limited in scope and not covering all the historical and natural sites. The preparation of such an inventory should be regarded as a priority by the Palestinian institutions, governmental and non-governmental, involved in cultural heritage. It would require several years of systematic and painstaking work by a

relatively large team of technical experts. This national inventory is a fundamental step for the protection of architectural heritage.

Long periods of neglect and official disregard by local municipalities in addition to the Israeli impacts and invasion resulted in the destruction of a significant number of important sites and monuments. Historic cores of Palestinian towns have been allowed to decay and largely abandoned by their original inhabitants.

Furthermore, with the absence of conservation plans and listing procedures of buildings of architectural or historic interest, these historic cores, with the exception of Jerusalem, were physically disrupted by insensitive modern development. Numerous old houses, mosques, suqs, khans and churches were demolished and replaced by modern equivalents or commercial buildings, resulting in the destruction of the historical character of these areas. In addition to this disruption, the continuous Israeli invasion to Palestinian cities resulted in the demolishing of the left historical buildings and sites in these cities.

Concerning the historic urban cores in main cities such as Nablus, Hebron and Jerusalem and the rural historic villages such as Beit Wazan, Sabastia, Kur, Arrabeh they are suffering from lack of maintenance and investment with many abandoned and under-used buildings. However, the historic cores of Palestinian towns provide a good potential for residential use. Many buildings including old palaces, large houses, workshops and factories have been under-used, abandoned, vacant and partially vacant due to a variety of reasons including (Touqan, 1997):

1. **Political:** Military clashes, restriction on movement, uncertainty of the future, and absence of local or central government support.
2. **Legal:** Absentee property laws, rent controls and restrictions imposed on development during the occupation; and
3. **Financial:** Lack of investment due to lack of financial insinuations, banks or any form of government financial help or incentives.

5.2. Challenges Facing Conservation:

Similar to other physical planning activities, conservation in Palestinian Territories (PT) is facing various challenges and obstacles. These could be classified as follows (Fethi, 1997; Touqan, 1997; Yousef, 1997; Abdelhamid and Amad, 2005):

- (1) The most serious problem or challenge is the Israeli policy towards the destruction of the Palestinians traditional and cultural identity, particularly in Jerusalem.
- (2) The interference and intersection of responsibilities over antiquities, culture, tourism, environment and the related issues such as conservation, which resulted in many problems in terms of conflict in interest, duplication in work, waste of efforts, financial resources and time, lack of coordination and cooperation, etc.
- (3) The lack of financial resources to undertake comprehensive conservation projects.
- (4) Conservation is not considered a top priority neither by people, who are struggling to feed and provide shelter for their families, nor by the Palestinian Authority, which still depends on donations from foreign countries and is struggling to maintain the basic infrastructure needed to provide health care and to create jobs.

- (5) Conservation in PT is seen by the public as being the problem and responsibility of the municipalities. But these municipalities as well as the NGOs and local bodies at present are only responsible for safeguarding monuments. This attitude, which does not encourage public investment in conservation and repair work, has eventually led to the public neglect of properties. Like many other countries in the developing world, where there is a continuing lack of respect for traditional buildings. This neglect, particular of the historic cores, is caused by modernization, development and technological advance.
- (6) Problems stemming from 'development' and the lack of efficient urban design in these historic quarters have heavily overshadowed the heritage of Palestine's glorious past. They are also threatened by the shifting of social and commercial activities from them to new centers outside. In addition, many historic structures, such as baths, soap factories, khans and palaces, in these historic cores have been destroyed in the name of progress and modernization. Yet these cores are considered by many to form the most attractive part of Palestine.
- (7) The shortage of qualified staff and specialists in conservation. The field has benefited only in a very limited way from investment in education and training programs. Not until the late 1980s did a few Palestinians start to specialize in conservation. Yet there is still no specialized organization or institute concerned with developing conservation techniques and methods. There is an obvious lack of political will and, as a result the commitment of finance to develop conservation through education and training, as well as by allocating money for regular, maintenance and repair is missing.
- (8) The absence of any form of legislative framework for the protection and preservation of our architectural heritage.
- (9) The problem of ownership pattern. The ownership of old buildings in an inherited property often belongs to a great number of individuals with the same kinship. It is rare that such property is a settled matter, entitled to one person. The multiple claims of several individuals to one property have a major impact on conservation policies.
- (10) The absence and/or weakness of public awareness towards the significance of conservation of cultural heritage in general and architectural heritage in particular. Most people evaluate it from an economic point of view. They would prefer to demolish the old buildings and build new ones with new uses without caring about their historical and cultural values.
- (11) The social challenge or problem. We cannot expect people living in very poor conditions and in places that are regarded by many as primitive, to express their desire to remain in them or even care about repairing them. In addition, as such historical areas are mainly occupied by poor indigenous people and/or by migrants who have moved in from the rural areas they do not express any interest in conserving them.

6. Conservation and Physical planning in Palestinian Territories:

As indicated above when reviewing the development of conservation during the previous periods, conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Palestine did not take any significant consideration within the physical planning process. This can be clearly observed from the various structural plans produced for cities and towns during these successive periods (Ottoman, British, Jordanian, and Israelis). Most or even all of these plans ignored the existence of historic areas (cores) or buildings as well as the distinct and valuable natural resources. The reason for this ignorance would be strongly linked

with the lack and absence of the intention to conserve and protect these areas and resources, simply because the administration body responsible for planning activities is not any more Palestinian and in most cases it is an occupier.

The old cores and buildings in cities and towns were not identified or marked as old or cultural heritage that need to be preserved and protected. These elements were treated as part of the built up environment and not distinct from other land uses. So, the people living in there could easily make any changes in such cultural heritage and/or could demolish these elements and build new ones since there are no certain policies or restrictions on dealing with these historic cores or buildings. Therefore, as can be seen in the structural plans prepared by the Ottomans, British, Jordanians, and Israelis there is no indication for an old core or even in most cases an archaeological site. For example, the old core was marked as a residential zone with high density (See Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Unfortunately, most of the structural plans prepared by Palestinian engineering offices when the Israelis gave a permission for them, particularly after 1985, were not very different from those plans prepared by the Israeli Military Administration. They continued to deal with the old cores and historic buildings in the same way by considering them as residential areas without any indication to their cultural value that should be protected or conserved (See Figure 5).

Later, when the Palestinian Authority took the responsibility of physical planning activities, the situation did not change so much. We still notice that most of the structural plans prepared by MOLG, the municipalities, and/or private firms do not give any consideration to the old cores of cities and towns. On the other hand, we could see structural plans prepared by academic research centers such as the Center for Urban and Regional Planning (CURP) at An-Najah National University, which treat the old historic cores separately and mark them as areas that need to be preserved or have to be studied in details (See Figures 6 and 7).

On the regional and national levels, the situation is different. As we discussed earlier MOPIC has given certain consideration to the issue of preservation and protection of both the cultural and natural heritage. This is clearly observed in the proposed National Policies for Physical Development as well as the proposed two Regional Plans for the West Bank and Gaza (1998-2010 and 1998-2015 respectively).

Thus, when plans (national, regional and local) are prepared properly and according to the issued laws and regulations we can then be sure that our cultural heritage will be preserved and protected. Physical planning with its context, aims, objectives and policies is a significant and necessary tool for the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage, particularly architectural heritage inside cities and towns.

Cities and Towns are not God-give or natural. They are the result of centuries of decision-making by individual owners and developers, and of government intervention. Whilst topography and geography do play a part, they do not absolutely determine development. The nature of cities and town, to a considerable extent, is dependent on who has the greatest influence over policy. Physical planning is to do with property and land, and therefore with money and power. It is the art and the science of ordering the land-uses and sitting the buildings and communication routes so as to secure the maximum level of economy, convenience and beauty. While urban planners are trying to put proposals and strategies for future development based on the existing needs and requirements of the people, they also are thinking about the past and how to transfer it into the future by certain conservation and preservation policies. According to physical planning the city or town is not only the present and future but also it is the past and history. The most famous and active cities all over the world are those with a long history, played various roles

during the last period, and have very valuable and precious urban and architectural heritage (Greed, 1994, Abdelhamid and Amad, 2005).

That man's cultural heritage should be conserved is not a thought shared by all. There is a need for motivation and raising the general awareness towards conserving old buildings, monuments and historical cores, but the philosophy of conservation has to be politically and socially acceptable. Conservation is a process of development rather than a step backward. Like land-use conservation, it has political connotations as it carries with it the improvement of the living conditions of ordinary people. Conservation, like planning, cannot be effective unless tied to political power and legislative support. Orderly planning and conservation of buildings and areas are difficult where the directions of development depend on decisions taken by numerous individuals separately, on the basis of immediate needs, without reference to a plan, policy or what others are doing. The urban form that evolves in the absence of regulations or controls does not respect culture, environment, public health or safety. Without adequate legislation, the deterioration of historic areas will continue unabated and it will be difficult to stem the tide of what is conceived of as "progress and internationalism" (Enam and Rashid, 1990, Abdelhamid and Amad, 2005).

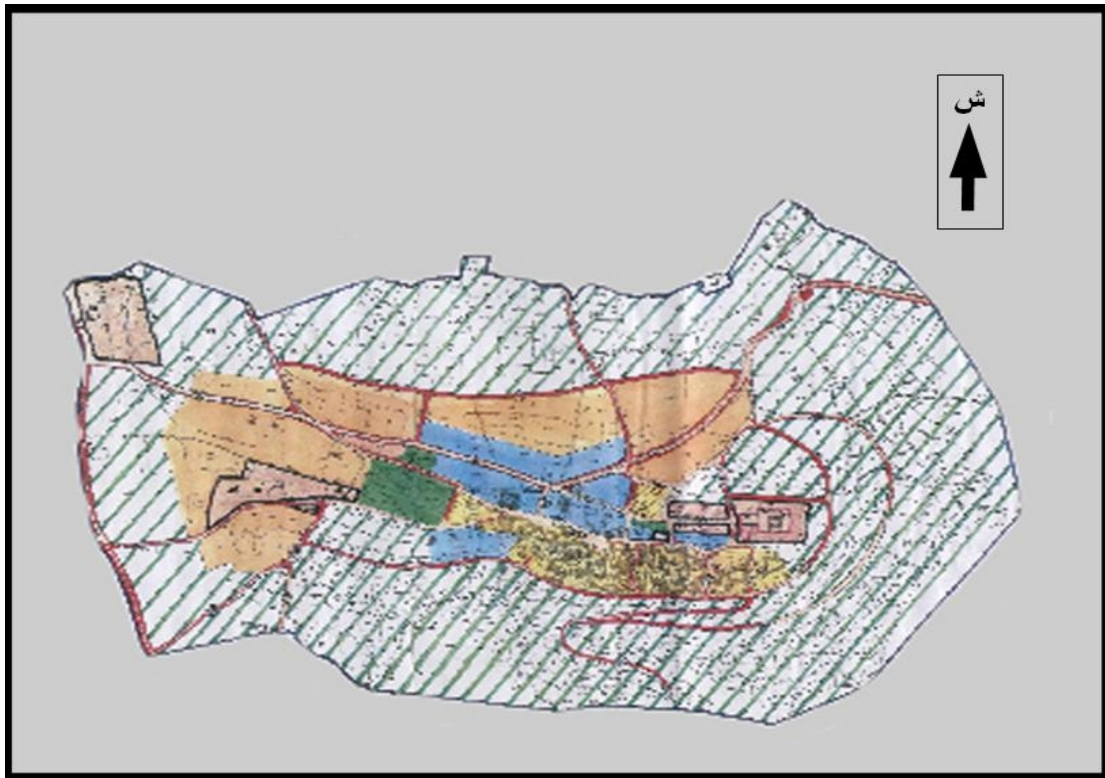
Therefore, we as Palestinians, in order to protect and conserve our historical and cultural heritage, should pay attention to physical and physical planning. As known, effective protection cannot be achieved without the necessary technical, administrative, financial and legal mechanisms. One key mechanism in this context is physical planning.

Figure 1: Tulkarem City Structural Plan during the Ottoman Period



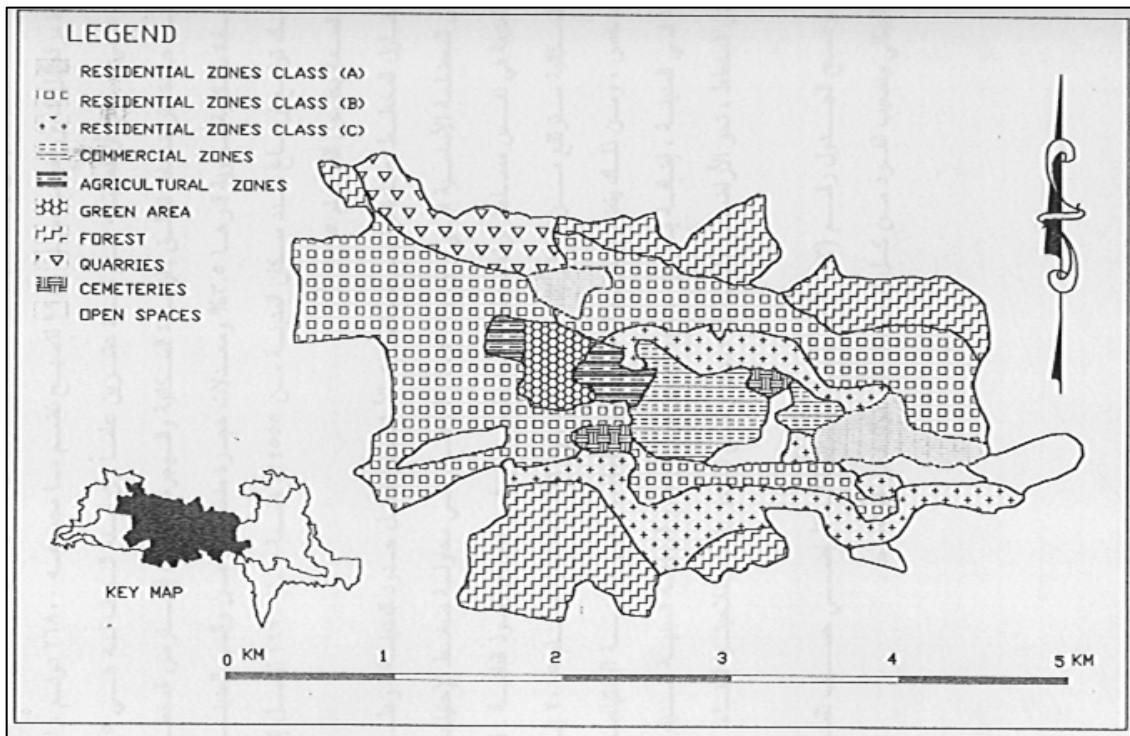
Source: Tulkarem Municipality.

Figure 2: Salfit Town Structural Plan during the British Period, 1945



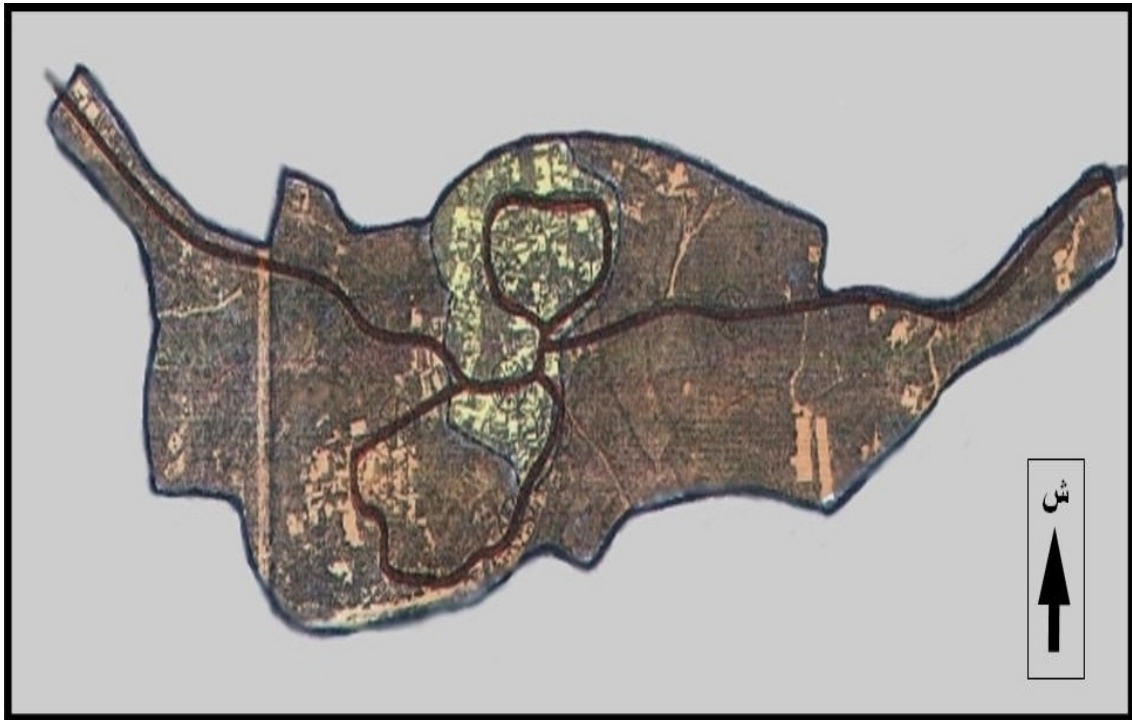
Source: Salfit Municipality.

Figure 3: Nablus City Land Use Plan during the Jordanian Period, 1961



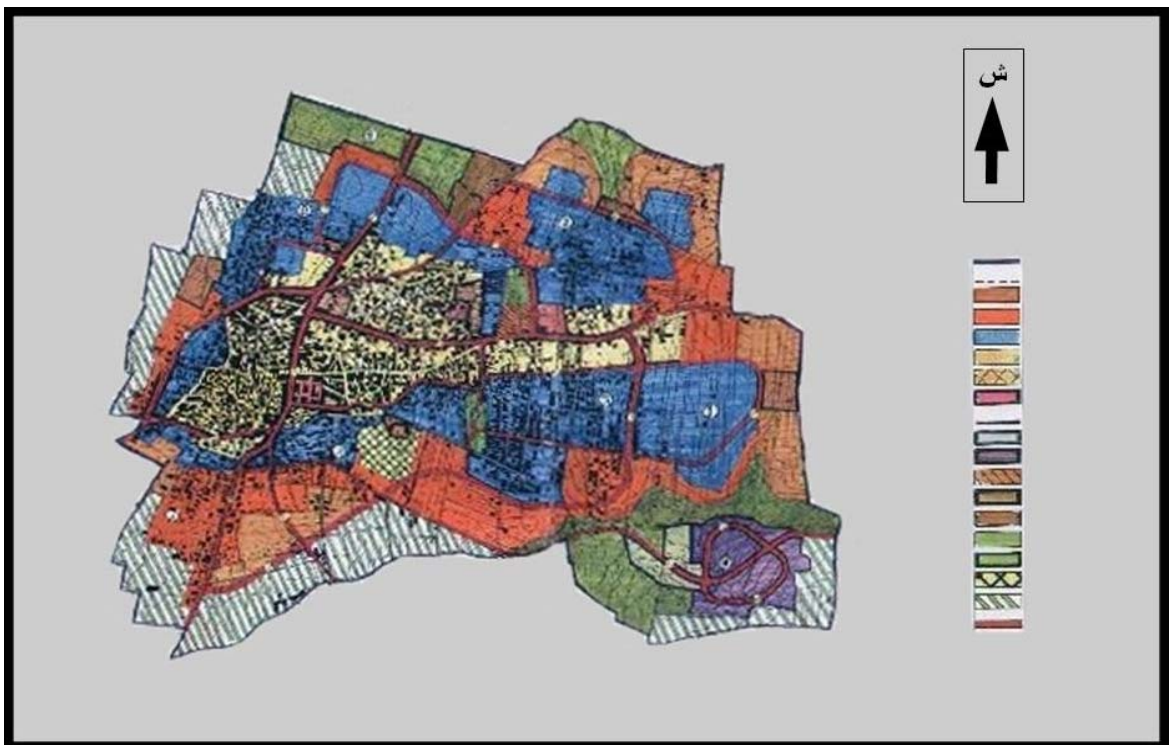
Source: Nablus Municipality.

Figure 4: Al-Fundq Village Structural Plan during the Israeli Period, 1991



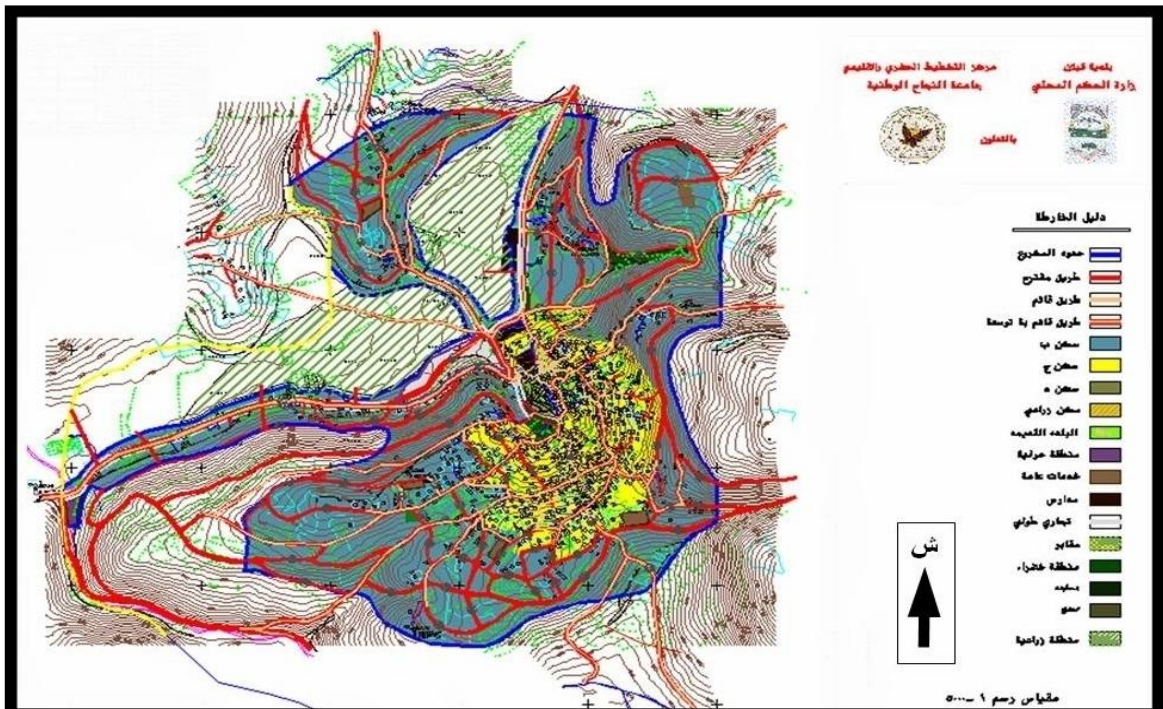
Source: Al-Fundq Village Council.

**Figure 5: Qalqilya Town Structural Plan during the Israeli Period, 1985
(Prepared by a Palestinian Engineering Office)**



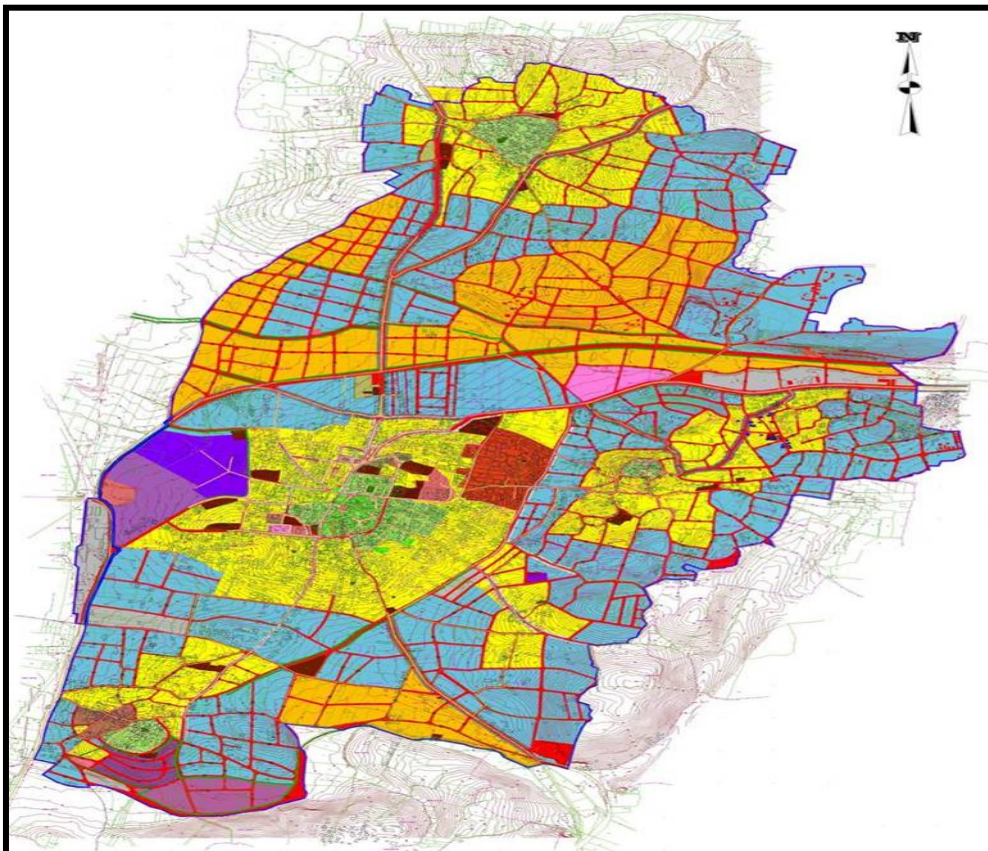
Source: Qalqilya Municipality.

Figure 6: Qabalan Village Structural Plan, 2000 (Prepared by CURP)



Source: CURP, An-Najah National University.

Figure 7: Tulkarem City Structural Plan, 2000 (Prepared by CURP)



Source: CURP, An-Najah National University.

7. Proposed Planning Strategies and Policies for Conservation in Palestinian Territories:

Except for its subject matter, planning for historic preservation and conservation is really no different than any other kind of planning. It is a rational, systematic process of gathering and analyzing information, and projecting preservation action into the future. Effective historic conservation planning empowers informed decision-making, rather than crisis-reaction, which results in enhanced preservation of historic and cultural resources. The primary purpose of historic conservation planning is to ensure the protection and preservation of valued historic and cultural resources for future generations. Whether carried out at the national, regional or local level, historic conservation planning is based on a careful identification and assessment of historic and cultural resources within the context of other public policy goals. Historic conservation planning builds a consensus toward a shared vision of the preservation future and establishes a course of action to ensure future preservation of valued historic and cultural resources (Ghosh, 1996; Lemaire, 1996).

The historic conservation or preservation plan documents the results of planning and looks toward the future while guiding decisions made and actions taken today. To be fully effective, the plan cannot gather dust on a shelf somewhere; it must be implemented--actions must be taken by a variety of players to make sure that the plan's goals can be achieved so that the shared vision of the conservation or preservation future can be reached (AHC, 2001).

7.1. Principles of Conservation Planning:

Conservation planning establishes a future direction or vision for historic and cultural resource preservation, and establishes and promotes specific ways to achieve that vision in a clear, concise fashion appropriate to its audience. The Principles of conservation planning are organized into three categories, based on three major components of the overall conservation planning process - the Planning Process itself, the Plan Document, and Plan Implementation (AHC, 2001).

(1) Planning Process: The related principles are (UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001) :

- The conservation planning process is innovative, flexible, and carefully designed to respond to the scale, audience, and needs of the specific planning area.
- Conservation planning involves the public in plan development, implementation, and revision, and tailors an approach to public participation that is appropriate for the varying identities and roles of the plan-maker and planning participant.
- Conservation planning assesses the status of the full range of historic and cultural resources in the planning area, or that are affected by the plan-making entity, and examines the factors that affect the resources and their preservation.
- Conservation planning uses historic contexts and, as appropriate, other special planning studies to help support conclusions and findings in the plan, to help identify critical issues, and to develop goals and priorities for the identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties.
- Conservation planning establishes goals and objectives that address the preservation needs of historic and cultural resources in the planning area, as well as the critical issues, threats, and opportunities facing those resources.
- Conservation planning produces a preservation plan that documents the findings and conclusions reached during the planning process, and that is distributed to its intended audience, and to others as appropriate.
- Conservation planning is timely and dynamic, accommodating change and providing for revision and updating when needed.

(2) Plan Document: The related principles are (UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001):

- The preservation plan is understandable and usable by its intended audience(s).
- The preservation plan explains how it was developed and by whom.
- The preservation plan describes historic and cultural resources in the planning area and explains the issues that affect them and their preservation.
- The preservation plan sets forth clear goal statements and provides guidance for implementation.
- The preservation plan has a specific and explicitly stated time frame, after which it is reaffirmed, substantially revised, or a completely new plan is developed.
- The preservation plan's level of technical detail and its format, length, and appearance are guided by the extent to which these will serve the plan's purpose(s) and the needs of its audience(s).

(3) Plan Implementation: The related principles are (UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001):

- The preservation plan is implemented.
- Conservation planning, the plan, and plan implementation are integrated and coordinated with other planning and decision-making processes in the planning area.
- Preservation plan implementation has access to realistic strategies and legally sound tools that are appropriate for achieving plan goals and policies.
- Preservation plan implementation includes ongoing evaluation, monitoring, and review of changing conditions and progress toward achievement of plan goals and policies.

7.2. Conservation Plans of Heritage Places:

Conserving and managing a heritage place requires careful planning. A conservation plan can ensure the significance of the place is conserved. The aim of conservation is to retain the heritage significance of a place. A conservation plan is a document which details how to look after the significant values of a place. It can be part of a broader management plan which addresses other non-heritage issues such as managing tourism (Ghosh, 1996; Lemaire, 1996).

Preparing a conservation plan is a systematic way of considering, recording and monitoring actions and decisions relating to all the aspects of managing a place. It will involve the following elements:

- adopt principles for conservation
- develop a conservation plan

Conservation planning for any place is an integral part of overall management planning for the whole area.

7.2.1. Principles for Conservation:

The principles of conservation for any heritage place are as follows (UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001) :

- 1) The aim of conservation is to retain the significance of the place.
- 2) Conservation is based on respecting all heritage values of the place without unwarranted emphasis on any one aspect at the expense of others.
- 3) Conservation of a place should include provision for its security, maintenance and future.
- 4) Conservation should involve the least possible physical intervention; do as much as necessary and as little as possible.

- 5) Conservation of a place should make use of all disciplines and experience that can contribute to the study and safeguarding of a place.
- 6) Conservation depends on accurate recording about decisions and changes to the place.
- 7) Conservation of a place occurs when the significant elements have not been removed or destroyed except under exceptional circumstances.

7.2.2. Developing a Conservation Plan:

The basic process for developing a conservation plan is outlined as such (UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001):

- 1) determine who has an interest and what information is needed
- 2) determine the heritage significance and management realities
- 3) determine the conservation policy/objectives
- 4) decide on conservation processes
- 5) identify responsibilities for actions
- 6) formulate and implement the plan
- 7) monitor the results and review the plan periodically

7.2.3. Determining the Conservation Policy:

As part of the conservation plan, we need to develop the conservation policy for the place. The conservation policy is a written statement of objectives for the future management of the place and should relate directly to its significant values. This policy is developed by bringing together knowledge about the heritage significance of a place and information about its other management realities. From this information is derived a statement of the desired future condition of the place. The desired future condition is a statement of the objectives for management for the place, and may mention heritage aspects as well as non-heritage aspects. It should therefore suggest proposed uses which are compatible, and may state or imply those which are not.

In summary, a conservation policy is a statement which summarizes the (UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001):

- heritage significance
- relevant management realities
- desired future condition of the place based on (1) and (2).

7.2.4. Deciding on Conservation Processes:

The choice of which conservation processes or actions to carry out at a place will determine the future security of its significant values. The conservation processes chosen may include one or more of the actions listed in the following summary. The definitions of each of these processes can vary with the different types of heritage.

If some compatible uses are identified in the conservation policy, then one of the conservation processes could be modification, and the process part of the conservation plan would say how it will be modified. The various conservation processes are the followings (Enam and Rashid, 1990; UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001):

(1) Maintenance

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the cultural value of a place and/or the biological diversity and geodiversity of a place. It may relate to the maintenance of oral and/or customary tradition associated with a place or to the fabric, contents and setting of a place.

(2) Protection

Protection means taking care of a place by maintenance and by managing impacts to ensure that natural significance is retained.

(3) Preservation

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding or slowing deterioration and/or maintaining the biodiversity and/or an ecosystem of a place at the existing stage of succession, or maintaining existing geodiversity.

(4) Restoration

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

(5) Modification

Modification means altering a place to suit proposed uses which are compatible with the natural significance of the place.

(6) Regeneration

Regeneration means the recovery of natural integrity following disturbance or degradation.

(7) Enhancement

Enhancement means the introduction to a place of additional individuals of one or more organisms, species or elements of habitat or geodiversity that naturally exist there.

(8) Reinstatement

Reinstatement means to introduce to a place one or more species or elements of habitat or geodiversity that are known to have existed there naturally at a previous time but that can no longer be found at that place.

(9) Reconstruction

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of material (old or new) into the fabric.

(10) Renewal

Renewal means any action which renews, or revitalizes, the cultural significance of the place. Sometimes these actions may affect the fabric or the physical aspects of the place.

- **Non-Physical Renewal:** Revitalisation can occur as a result of activities which do not alter the fabric; for example, by the telling of new stories, or by the use of the site for ceremonies.
- **Physical Renewal:** Physical renewal means altering the fabric (using new or old material) in order to maintain the cultural significance of a place. For art sites this includes re-marking and embellishment, new-marking and superimposition.

(11) Adaptation

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.

(12) Maintenance

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.

7.2.5. Determining Responsibilities for Actions:

Deciding who is responsible for implementing the conservation plan is crucial for its success. There may be a number of people who will carry out different conservation processes and other tasks. List these people and the tasks they are responsible for in the plan. The plan should address monitoring, reviewing and updating. Sometimes conservation plans sit on the shelf of an office gathering dust. Involving community groups, landowners and other interested parties in the process of developing the plan and assigning responsibility for tasks can ensure that the plan will be successfully implemented. The following checklist will help to develop the conservation plan (UNESCO, 1995; AHC, 2001):

- What are the boundaries of the place?
- Who are all the individuals and groups who may have an interest in the place? Which of these should be involved in decisions about managing the place?
- What information is available about its fabric, setting, contents, associated documents, land use, spiritual use, biological diversity, geodiversity or habitats?
- What are the significant values of the place? Have they all been identified? Is there a statement of these values?
- What are the objectives for the future condition of the place?
- What conservation principles, processes or actions are needed to conserve the significance of the place?
- What are the constraints and opportunities arising from management issues such as resources?
- How will monitoring and reporting on the success of the plan be carried out?
- How will the plan be amended to improve it as a result of monitoring?

8. Concluding Remarks and Recommendations:

Palestine's heritage, shaped by nature and history, is an inheritance passed from one generation to the next. It encompasses many things - the way we live, the traditions we hold dear, our history and values. It is also reflected in the natural and cultural diversity of places and objects that help us to understand our past and our effect on the Palestinian landscape.

We should protect and preserve our heritage places because:

- they are a link with our past, a reminder of special moments in lives, history or culture
- they are part of a location's special identity which could bring economic as well as other benefits to the area
- they have natural or cultural values which should be handed on to future generations
- there are social, spiritual or ethical (including respect for existence or intrinsic values) obligations to do so

- there are legal obligations to do so contained in planning, indigenous sites or endangered species legislation.

When people work together to identify and conserve heritage places, they can reflect on the past and build stronger bonds for the future. Keeping these places enables the community to experience again and again the pleasures they offer. Once lost, they are gone forever. No record or photograph can ever substitute for an actual place.

Considering all the above mentioned points and special aspects of the Palestinian people and their cultural and natural heritage, the following recommendations can be presented:

- 1) Accelerating the approval of the new Plan and Building Act to facilitate achievements of the national policies of physical planning and support local level planning.
- 2) Taking into consideration the cultural, historical and natural heritage of urban and rural areas when preparing their structural plans.
- 3) Formation of the Legislative Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage in Palestine.
- 4) Establishing the legal basis to encourage interested private and public bodies to share some responsibilities in the conservation and protection of historic buildings, monuments, and areas.
- 5) Supporting conservation legislation by careful planning policies.
- 6) Allocating and/or searching financial support for conservation projects.
- 7) Establishing and improving educational and training programs in both physical planning and conservation, in order to provide qualified and skilled staff.
- 8) Enhancing public awareness towards the preservation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.
- 9) Encouraging public participation as a step to the revitalization and conservation of the community, which will inculcate a sense of belonging to the conserved area.
- 10) Enhancing cooperation and coordination between and among the ministries, institutions and authorities as well as the private sector and NGO's involved in physical planning and conservation and preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

Finally, we as Palestinians, being under occupation for more than 50 years and struggling against our identity (being or not being), should spend the utmost efforts to protect and conserve our cultural and natural heritage, which will help us to protect our identity and give us the right to continue living on this land.

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