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Frameworks under a
Compact City Policy: The
2017-2027 Addis Ababa's
Structure Plan in the light of
the Valletta
Recommendation,**

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**THEME 1: LESSONS LEARNED AND NEW CHALLENGES IN THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VALLETTA
PRINCIPLES**

Urban Conservation Frameworks under a Compact City Policy: The 2017-2027
Addis Ababa's Structure Plan in the light of the Valletta Recommendation

The current structure plan of Addis Ababa promotes a compact city development policy which approaches historic sites framed accordingly and should thus be reviewed from the 2011 Valletta Principles.

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- The issues raised under the *Structure Plan of Addis Ababa (2017-27)* reflect upon the challenges of large scale city planning frameworks for the lower level conservation/management plans. The case has an insight for what complements could be made to the Valletta principles, particularly to the part dealing with *Conservation and Management Plans; i.e., 'principles'* set for conservation management should acknowledge the broader planning frameworks with details.

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- The purpose of this short paper is to point out some gaps of the Valletta principles as related to its understanding on the management and conservation plans in the framework of Addis Ababa's broader planning context. Thus, the summary document of the 2017-2027 city structure plan of Addis Ababa was reviewed from the perspective of the 2011 'Valletta Principles.

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There are two main remarks in this regard. First, despite the Plan's incorporation of various international standards under the compact city strategy, it failed to consider urban heritage as a cultural landscape and has thus only delineated historic sites for a special building height regulation.

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Second, it suggests a gap with the Valletta principles in providing details for: '... the role of landscape as common ground, or conceptualizing the townscape, including its topography and skyline, ... particularly in fast growing cities, takes into account the problems of large scale developments, which alter the traditional lot sizes that help to define historic urban morphology....

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'...The notion of sustainable development has gained such importance that many directives on architectural planning and interventions are now based on policies designed to limit urban expansion and to preserve urban heritage;' **in fact necessitates further details!**

Conclusion

Therefore, the part of the recommendation, particularly the sections: *Conservation (i) and Management (k)* needs further elaborations in the context of rapid metropolitan compact development, where the compact city strategy is the tradition. This is relevant to understanding to what extent metropolitan strategies affect the quality of detailed conservation standards.

References:

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- OECD. (2012). Compact city policies: a comparative assessment. *The World Bank Seminar*, 18. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264167865-en>
- ICOMOS 2011. The Valleta Principles for the Safe Guarding of Historic Towns and Urban Areas.

End of Presentation

- Thank you

