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Scientific Symposium**


Urban Heritage and Sustainability

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**Sustainable heritage management
for
re-conceptualization of local
identity**

Prof. Dr. Shadi Ghadban
Birzeit University
Faculty of Engineering and Technology
Department of Architectural Engineering
Palestine



This presentation intends to discuss the necessity to develop a consciousness and understanding of the close relationships between:

- Cultural heritage and identity, and
- Between heritage management and sustainability.

The presentation does not intend to solve the challenges in Palestine with regard to conservation and management, but rather intends to emphasize some crucial factors in building and developing a sound and sustainable cultural heritage management.

Present Palestine consists of two parts:

- West Bank, and
- Gaza Strip.

This area is:

- ✓ Sited in the Eastern Mediterranean,
- ✓ Connects two central continents: Asia and Africa,
- ✓ A Holy Place for the main heaven religions.
- ✓ Has altitudes ranging from 394 m below sea level and 1400m at the mountainous chain positioned parallel to the coast.
- ✓ Contains a diverse landscape.
- ✓ The known history shows that Palestine was for a long period of time an essential part of the geo-political order in Greater Syria, also known as the Levant.
- ✓ This country is still under Israeli Occupation.



- For all these reasons, Palestine region or parts of it have been controlled frequently by different powers;
- The various conquest activities that took place there have affected the country development;
- But, in a way or another, they participated in shaping the traditions and customs of its people (Palestinians), and as thus, **the country reveals its identity, way of living that progressively shaped its cultural heritage;**
- These powers include:

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 1- Canaanites, | 7- Tjeker, | 13- Romans, |
| 2- Amorites, | 8- Philistines, | 14-Byzantines, |
| 3- Ancient Egyptians | 9- Assyrians, | 15- Different dynasties of the Early Muslim period (Umayyads, Abbasids, Seljuqs, Fatimids) |
| 4- Israelites, | 10- Babylonians, | 16- Crusaders, |
| 5- Moabites, | 11- Persians, | 17- Late Muslim dynasties (Ayyubids, Mamluks, Ottoman Turks), |
| 6- Ammonites, | 12- Ancient Greeks, | 18- the British |
| 19-Jordanians (1948–1967, on the "West Bank") and Egyptians (1948–1967, in Gaza), and modern Israelis and Palestinians. | | |

Referring to the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza) contain more than **6000** 'Cultural Heritage' sites, most of them are still unexcavated. It is classified into the following five components:

- 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, Bethlehem...etc.
- 3- **Rural suburbs 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, Sabastia...etc.
- 5- **The cultural landscapes of the West Bank ("Land of Olives and Vines")** that were assessed of potential "outstanding universal value" according to the *"Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention"*.

1- The Prehistoric Age

The region was among the earliest in the world to see human habitation, agricultural communities and civilization around 9,000 BCE; This is the time when cereal cultivation and animal domestication was introduced.



Aerial View of Tel- AL-Sultan Site in Jericho.
The city have been built around 9000 BCE



An Unearthed dwelling in Tel- Alsultan
Site in Jericho

2- the ancient Greek Era around 332 BCE



Ancient Greek Citadel in Jerusalem

3- The Roman Time around 64 BCE to 323 AC



The Roman Site in Sebastia

Aerial View of the Acropolis of Herodium, 23-15
BCE



The Roman Graves in Nablus



4- The Byzantine Time around 64 BCE to 323 AC



Holy exterior of the Sepulcher Church in Jerusalem, 335 AD



The Church of Nativity in Bethlehem, 327 AD



The Mosaic Floor in the Church of Nativity



A Newly Unearthed Mosaic Floor in Gaza Strip

5- The Early Islamic period (Umayyads, Abbasids, Seljuqs, Fatimids)



The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem



The Umayyad Palaces in Jerusalem



Hisham Palace in Jericho



The Mosaic Floor in Hisham Palace

6- The Crusaders Period (mainly fortifications and churches)



Interior view of the An-Nasr Mosque,
converted from a Crusader church to
a mosque in the 13th century



Ruins of the Church of St Georges,
Taybeh

7- Late Muslim Dynasties (Ayyubids, Mamluks and Ottoman)



Khan Al- Sultan, Jerusalem



A School and a Minaret Buildings





Nabi Mouse, Shrine, next to Jericho



Courtyard houses in rural context



Ottoman Military Hospital in
Jerusalem, 1912





Mansion house from the Late Ottoman Period



The last Palace in Gaza from the Late Ottoman Time



Public building with modern architecture influenced by the process of westernization that took place in Palestine after 1840 (the Ottoman Reforms)

8- The British Mandate Period



Palestinian National Museum
(Rockefeller), Jerusalem



A House in Ramallah: resolution?????

9- The Man-made and Natural



Solomon Pools, Bethlehem



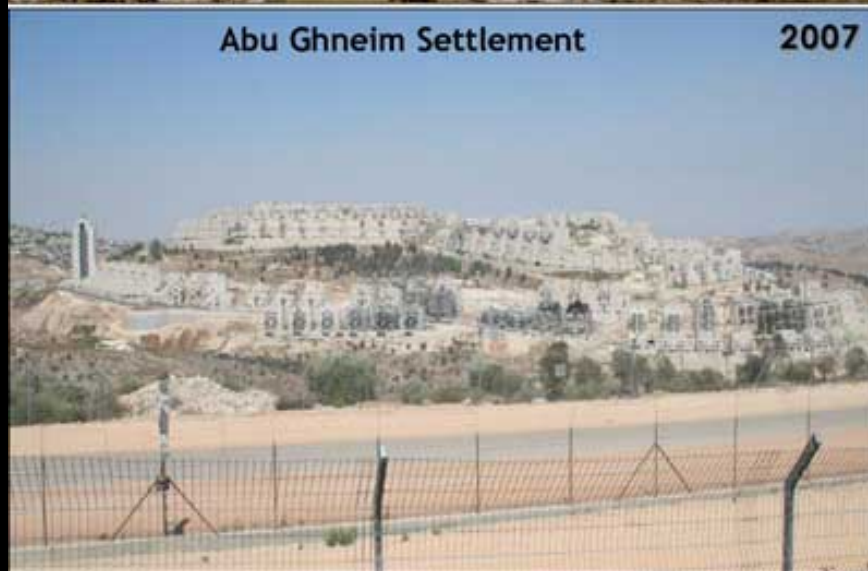
Battir Village- World Cultural Heritage Site, Bethlehem

Vineyards, Hebron



Mar Saba Monastery, Bethlehem





Following Oslo Interim Accord signed in 1994 between Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the State of Israel:

- UNESCO and various international and local authorities, launched several initiatives aiming at contributing to the conservation and management of the Palestinian cultural heritage, as included in the first “Inventory of cultural and natural heritage sites of potential outstanding universal value in Palestine”, issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in July 2005.
- These initiatives initiated by Emerging issues are:
 - Capacity-building for cultural management,
 - Participation of local populations as a means for protecting their cultural identity
 - Promotion of income-generating activities to retaining the traditional use of land and getting a benefit from it. Furthermore,
 - interventions addressing emergency safeguarding measures as well as rehabilitation and valorization of cultural assets were undertaken.

Despite the above-mentioned initiatives, the country presents lacunae at different levels:

- Governmental mechanisms continue to lack of a systematic approach towards the territorial and urban management and monitoring,
- Absence of a national inventory of cultural heritage in Palestine, A
- bsence of conservation plans and listing procedures the historic cores, with the exception of Jerusalem,
- Absence or delay of city and/or regional plans and related by-laws, including conservation guidelines, and the consequent obligation to rely on the 1966 Jordanian “Antiquities Law” (in the West Bank territory),
- Relying on international donations for urban upgrading and environmental improvement,
- Further urgent need to strengthen the local professional scientific and technical capacities,
- Lack of public awareness on the importance of preserving the cultural assets as a means to protect the Palestinian cultural diversity and identity.

For these reasons:

Many historic urban cores in main cities are suffering from lack of maintenance and investment with 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:

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

Based on the above-mentioned review, **Palestine needs to re-conceptualize the management tools of its cultural heritage and to re-build its cultural identity that is an important part for building self-awareness and social advancement**, considering that:

- There was a shift in the concept of conservation during the years after the Convention concerning the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1972 and no longer the focus is solely on conservation activities like protection, restoration, and safeguarding,
- This management has moved towards:

Re-construction, re-building and re-pairing

From cultural heritage legislation to planning legislation

From sustainable strategies for long term heritage management

And where national, regional and local authorities have an important role to play

History

1900



Heritage

1970



**Identity of Place and
National Entity**

"Leave as it is":

**Conservation
Protection
Preservation**

"Silent Conservation":

**Rehabilitation
Safeguarding
Renovation**

**Integration
Revitalization
Reparation
Reconstruction**

**Passive and
"Freezing"**



**Proactive and
Action Minded**

Understanding of this shift in conservation management would help in showing how to Strengthen and develop the consciousness and understanding of the relationship between:

Cultural Heritage and Identity

and

Heritage Management and Sustainability

With a Focus on: **Cultural Heritage and Identity**

Considering that:

Cultural objects registered as national heritage are most often objects with traces of mixed cultures, They consist of a complexity of cultural exchange through generations and do not always represent a time of glory for present day inhabitants.

The new trends of searching for sustainability in cultural heritage management are first and foremost defined by the interaction between people and the environment and between lifestyle and the built environment. These trends call for new tools of planning and new management thinking:

- Inclusion, instead of exclusion, and
- Long term holistic planning instead of single object conservation.
- From a single object concern to a global concern for the future, while at the same time enhancing a local action-oriented approach to sustainability.

Through this sustainability, the Palestine Government consciously will pursue:

- Public participation
- Public awareness

- Response to local needs
- Capacity building
- Reinforcement of local management
- Institutional capacity building

Concepts of sustainable development and sustainability in Relation to Heritage Management have been debated, discussed and explored in public and institutional fora since the early sixties, for example:

- 1- In **Rachel Carson book: *Silent Spring* (1962)**. These concepts did not find a forum in the fields of cultural and architectural heritage until the United Nation's HABITAT Conference in Vancouver, 1976.
- 2- In **Bruntland, in his study "Our Common Future", 1987, p. 46**. He stated that sustainable development is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations.
- 3- In **Kyoto Agreement, 2000**

Concept of :

SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Sustainability

Silent Spring, 1962



Economy
Sociology
Environment

Our Common Future, 1987



Local needs
Public Participation
Long-Term Perspective
Local and Regional
Participation

Kyoto Agreement, 2000

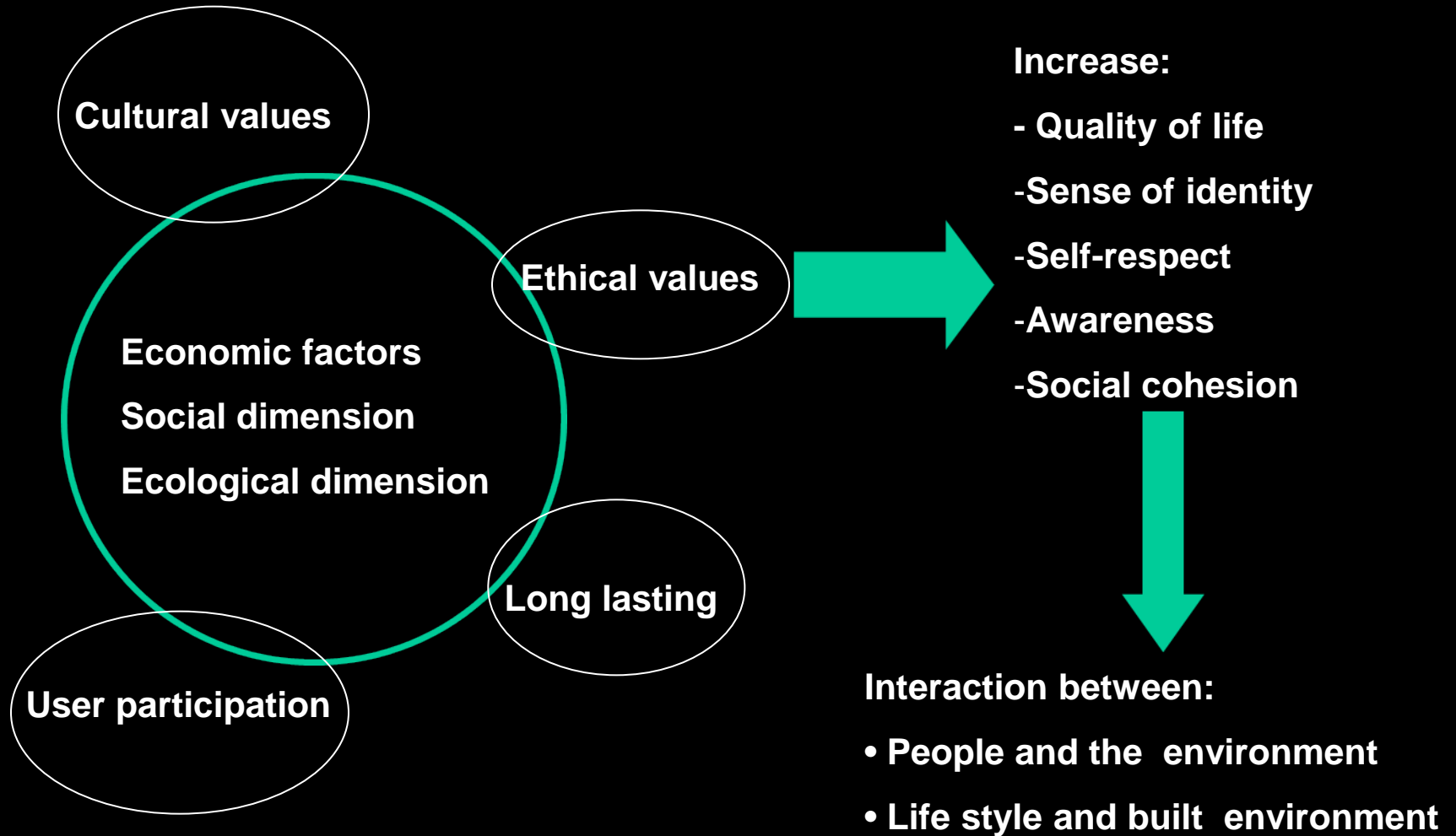


Increasing:

Quality of Life, Sense of Identity, Self-respect, Awareness, and Social Cohesion

Concept of :

SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT





- **Responsive to Local Needs and Long Term Holistic Planning**
- *Improve consciousness*
- *Strengthen local authorities*
- *Enforce administration*
- *Create and strengthen partnership*
- *Strengthen e regional policy*
- *Transform new use*
- *Increase the Sense of Identity*
- *Increase quality of life*

Final Notes

- 1- In the Palestinian situation of regenerating the historic environment and re-building of heritage management the need for practical, planning and political tools are obvious and decisive but a close link to the international heritage society is also of great importance and The Hague Convention along with the actions taken to support a Palestine application implementation of the World Heritage Convention, are most relevant and useful for the Palestine situation.
- 2- According to UNESCO report: 30 COM: "... , the Palestine cultural and natural heritage lacks a comprehensive systematic management and conservation mechanism". In the ongoing work with establishing a sustainable management of cultural heritage in Palestine, the government and local authorities now have the possibilities to avoid the mistakes done by their forerunners by heading for sustainability founded in the improvement of the life of the civil societies in Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho as well as along Jesus Christ Route, Footsteps of the Prophets and in the cultural landscapes.

For this purpose:

- 1- The Palestine World Heritage Committee and its secretariat were officially launched in April 2005 with the aim to prepare for a future implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Pointing the fact that Palestine is recognized as a state by UN General Assembly; therefore it have to sign The Hague Convention.
- 2- By stating a formal recognition of the importance of the sustainable heritage management and preparing for signing of The World Heritage Convention, Palestine also declares all cultural heritage sites in a global context as important as its own.
- 3- In preparation for signing of The World Heritage Convention, Palestine should be ready also to sign The Hague Convention. It is of uttermost importance that Palestine and its neighbors recognize and mutually respect each other's cultural heritage sites.
- 4- In the process of preparing for signing, ratification and implementation of The World Heritage Convention (1972), Palestine is being supported by international organizations and institutions as well as from within the Palestine Government itself.
- 5- In Palestine, there are many activities in a number of fields and on several levels that would assist towards the development of a sustainable cultural heritage management; yet, Public participation is anyhow to be stressed.



THANKS FOR LISTINING

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듣기 주셔서 감사합니다