



# Cultural & Natural Heritage; A Tool for Socio-Economic Development

## Procedures, precautions and attractions

As a response to previous recommendations, the “Cultural & Natural Heritage; A Tool for Socio-Economic Development”, was designed to satisfy the needs and requirements of the various stakeholders and to complement the Management Plan that was proposed to be prepared for Battir as a World Heritage Site.

This project, funded by the British Council in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, aimed to safeguard an important cultural site that bears an outstanding cultural significance “Ein Al-Balad Area” located at the historic centre of Battir, and its square *Al-Maidan Square*, which hosts different social and tourists activities and practices, and suffers from severe damages and deterioration.

On the other hand, the project aims at preserving aspects of the intangible heritage, mainly the inherited traditions passed down through generations through reviving the traditional festivals that used to take place once, and promoting the Agritourism of Battir through organizing scheduled markets.

This document aims not simply to put up a display addressed to passive visitors, but to involve actively the local public in a collective project valorization of the local heritage, intended as a diffused shared resource for the production of social capital and an engine for local sustainable development.

In order to maintain the project’s sustainability, and be able to implement future projects aiming at preserving the area and promote it as an agritourism destination, a Maintenance and Management Plan was prepared defining each partners’ role and responsibilities. This plan stressed mostly on the need to organize periodic and seasonal festivals and cultural activities at the “Al-Maidan Square” to revive it and benefit the local community from the project, and importantly to maintain the project. Kiosks were produced according to recommendations of this plan, in order to be used for the festivals and cultural activities, and popular markets at the “Al-Maidan Square”.



This document as well has emphasized on couple of things that could be done in Battir, enlisting the precautions to be aware of in order not to harm the area and maintain its environment and heritage.

**You are encouraged to:**

1. Try the traditional food at the local restaurants;
2. Do your picnic in the charming terraces where allowed;
3. Visit the local handicrafts shops;
4. Buy the local handmade food;
5. Visit the cultural and archaeological sites in the area;
6. Experience and enjoy the hiking, biking and climbing.

**Precautions while touring in Battir:**

For your safety and the protection of the World Heritage Site please note the following:

1. Coordinate with the municipal council or/and Battir Eco-Museum prior to embarking on the tourist route;
2. Entry into agricultural land is strictly prohibited;
3. Harvest or picking any plant or fruit is prohibited;
4. Abuse of animals and hunting is strictly prohibited;
5. Do not leave any disposal behind;
6. Do not throw trash or cigarette butts on the floor;
7. Do not step on the railway in any case. The area is under surveillance by Israeli forces.