

CYPRUS: Daring to Cooperate despite unfinished Conflict

Seminar on sharing good practice and tools for communication, cooperation and conflict resolution in the context of countries with no diplomatic relations

**Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment,
UNECE/Geneva, 11th Nov. 2013**

Raymond Saner

*DiplomacyDialogue/ CSEND/Geneva
University of Basle & Sciences Po, Paris*

www.diplomacydialogue.org

www.csend.org

SEN

Cyprus

the beauty
(landscape & people)
+ the beast
(inter-communal
violence)



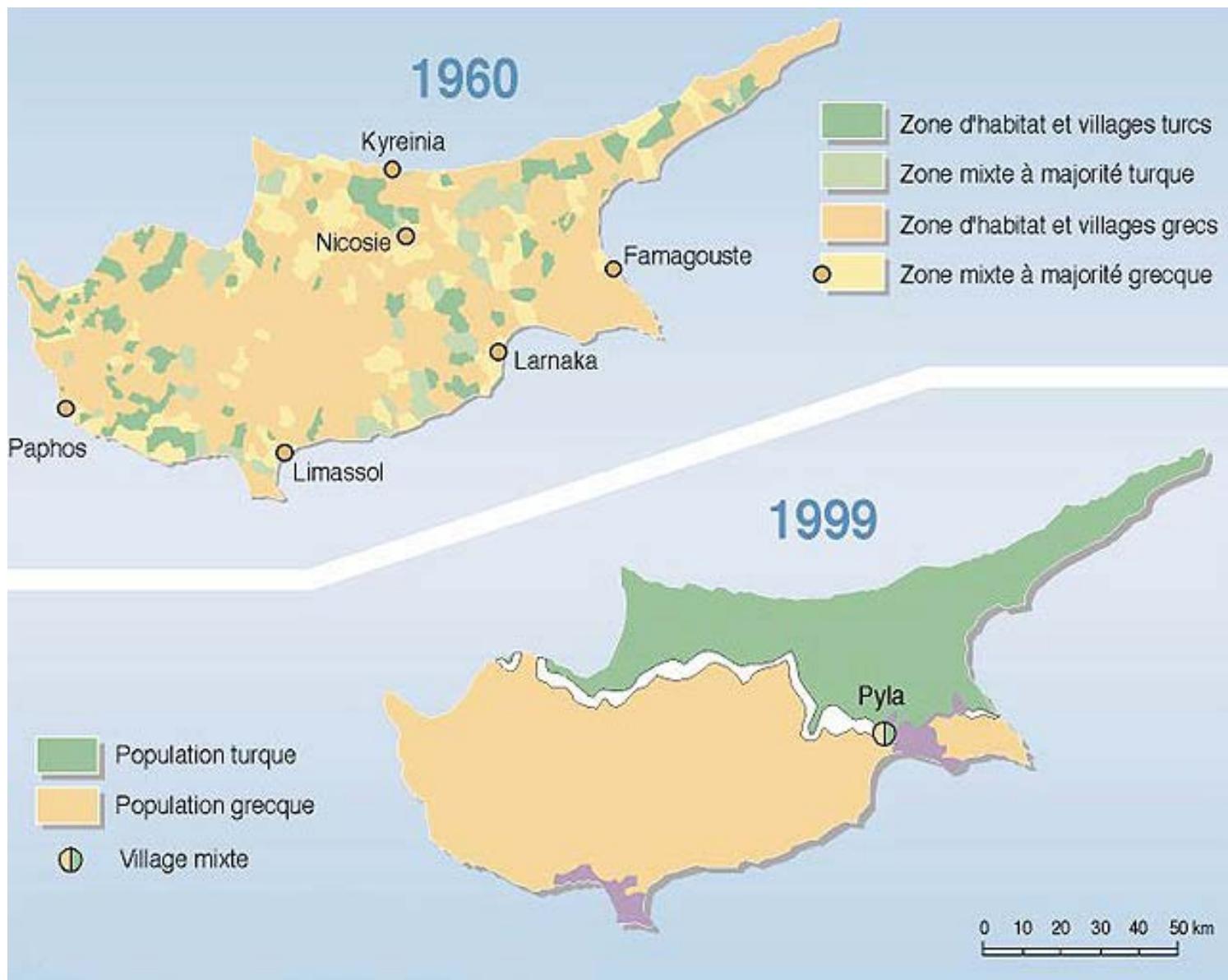
Cyprus: recent history



1. Independence from UK on 16th August 1960 (Zurich & London agreement between UK, Greece & Turkey)
2. 1963: inter-communal violence broke out leading to retreat of Turkish Cypriots into armed hamlets
3. 15th July 1974, Greek military junta carried out coup d'état, president Makarios had to flee and 4 days later, Turkey intervened militarily on Cyprus
4. 1,534 Greek Cypriots and 502 Turkish Cypriots since missing, 180,000 Greek-Cypriots evicted from north, 50,000 Turkish Cypriots evicted from South; islands divided, and United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) -established in 1964-, positioned at green line to maintain military status quo.
5. Several attempts to re-unification were tried but all failed, island remains divided, unstable and a risk to domestic and regional security.

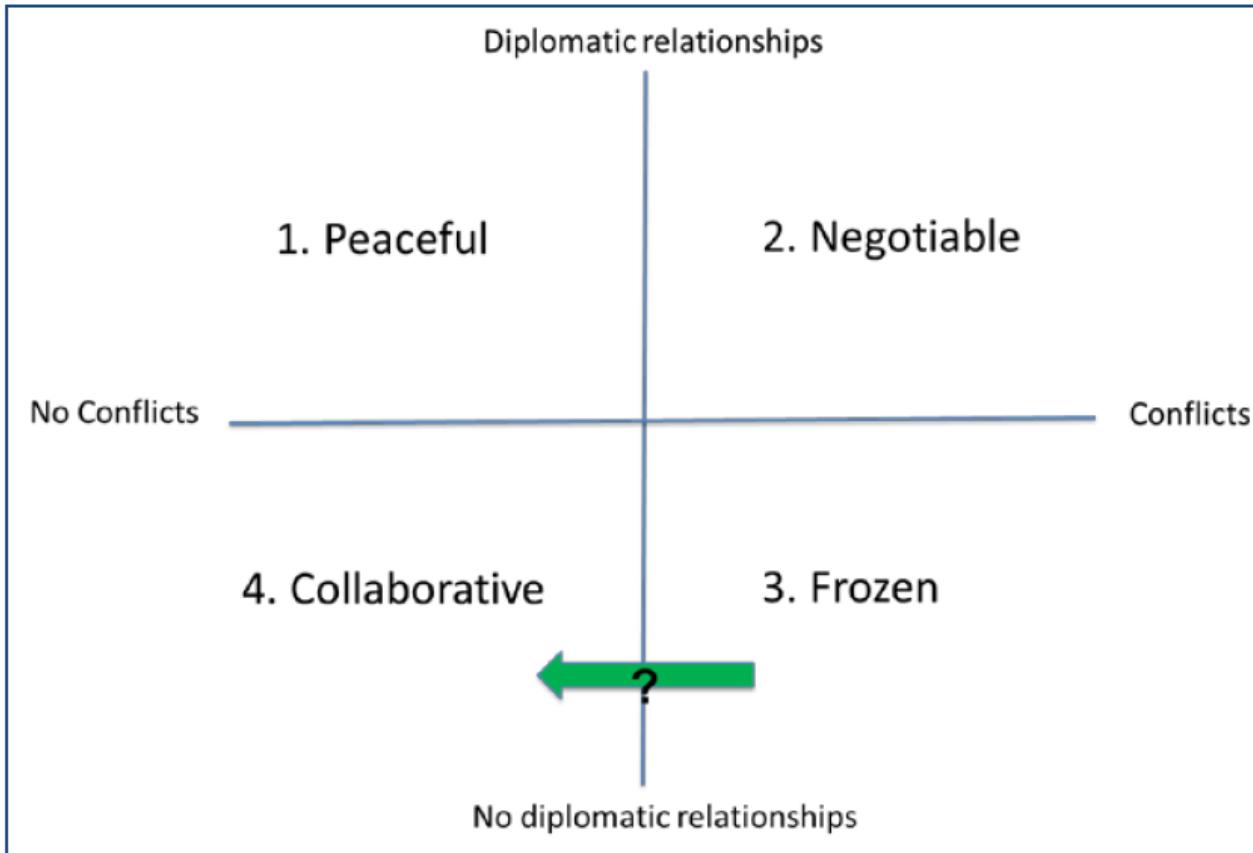


Ethnic Cleansing in Cyprus



"In 1960 the Greek and Turkish communities formed a mosaic. After more than 25 years of Turkish occupation of the north of the island and the forced transfer of populations, the two communities - Turkish in the north and Greek in the south - are now strictly separated by a demarcation line

How to move towards collaboration (I)



Source: UNECE (2013), "Background paper on good practice on communication, cooperation and conflict resolution", Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, p.5

Cross-border environmental cooperation in Cyprus



❖ Mini- Case examples:

- What- Issues, needs and common interest
- Where- location of the environmental conflict or cooperation
- When- year
- Who - Key actors and stakeholders (interested parties)
- What intervention - strategy and action
- How it happened - game changer, power brokers
- What the post intervention status - difference made and follow up.

Case 1: HABITAT CONSERVATION (I)



- ❖ **What?** Uncontrolled development of tourism, illegal hunting and trapping, habitat degradation, and habitat destruction face the entire island-nation.
- ❖ **What intervention?** Ensure sea turtles have clean beaches on which to nest, the status of Cyprus's native donkey population or discussing ways to mitigate the effects of a dropping water table are approached as joint-initiatives. **Environmental NGOs on both sides of the island are currently involved in research, advocacy, awareness-raising, and conservation.**
- ❖ **Who?** Done outside the framework of government-to-government contacts through NGOs or multilateral organizations. **HasNA, Terry Cypris (South of the Island) & Cyprus Turkish Boilogoists Environment Research and Protection Association (North)**

Source: UNECE (2013), "Background paper on good practice on communication, cooperation and conflict resolution", Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, p.6

Cyprus serves as a nesting location for numerous rare sea turtles



Source: <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2010/02/20/839037/-The-History-of-the-Cyprus-Conflict-A-Background-w-Peacebuilding-Strategies#>

Case 2: SEWERAGE (I)

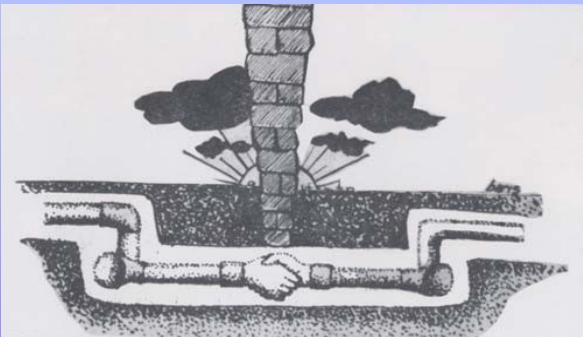


- **What?** One of the first examples of post-conflict cooperation, with the re-connection of the **Nicosia Sewerage System**, under the auspices of **UNHCR**, and at the behest of the two mayors.
- **Who?** **Government of Cyprus, UNDP-PFF**. Also **WHO** and **UNHCR**. The project was jointly funded by the **Sewerage Board of Nicosia** and the **European Union**.
- **What intervention?** The process led to the creation of the **Inter-communal Nicosia Master Plan in 1978**. More recently, **UNDP-PFF office** managed a project to rebuild the **sewage treatment plant in Mia Milia**.

Source: UNDP Partnership for Future website, http://www.undp-pff.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=353&Itemid=257

Bi-Communal Projects

Building bridges between the two communities



Aim: To improve the existing and future living conditions of all the inhabitants of Nicosia

- **1978: Agreement for the preparation of a common sewerage system**



- **1979: Agreement for the preparation of a common physical Master Plan**

Case 2: SEWERAGE (II)



❖ How?

- The Government of Cyprus requested from the World Health Organization in 1965 to prepare a Pre-feasibility Study on the sewerage and drainage system of Nicosia. Stage I began in 1972 and was funded by the World Bank, the Cyprus Government and the funds of the Sewerage Board of Nicosia. The total cost was £3.100.000 which has been repaid by the Sewerage Board of Nicosia from rates collected from the Greek-Cypriots only.
- In 1978, following delicate negotiations between Mr. L. Demetriades, **Mayor of Nicosia**, and Mr. M. Akinci, representing the **Turkish Cypriot Side**, with encouragement and assistance from the **UNDP and the World Bank**, an agreement was reached to complete the work.

Source: Sewerage Board of Nicosia, <http://www.sbn.org.cy/cgi-bin/hweb?-A=282&-V=technical>

Case 2: SEWERAGE (III)



❖ How? (cont.)

- The agreement included some additional work on the Turkish Cypriot Side which, although small in volume, put a substantial load on the treatment plant.
- Stage III works began in 1988 and were completed in 1995. It included the areas of Agios Andreas, Agios Pavlos and Vorios Polos in Kaimakli, the areas of Akropolis in Strovolos and a part of Agios Dometios. Stage III also covered some occupied areas in the north. Stage III was funded by **UNHCR**.

❖ Difference made

Mia Milia Treatment Plant treats waste from both communities. It can treat up to 20.000m³ of sewage daily and serves the areas of Nicosia, Agios Dometios and parts of Strovolos, Egkomi and Aglantzia as well as part of the occupied area of Nicosia.

Source: Sewerage Board of Nicosia, <http://www.sbn.org.cy/cgi-bin/hweb?-A=282&-V=technical>

Case 3: BUSINESS & ELECTRICITY (I)



- **What?** Purchase of electricity from the TCC to the GCE in 2011, following the explosion of the main Greek Cypriot power plant in Mari.
- **Who?** Chambers of Commerce on both sides, through a project funded by UNDP-ACT.
- **What intervention?** This was achieved through the Economic Interdependence Project with the aim to contribute to the formalization and the sustainability of the relations between the two implementing Chambers as well as the business communities in both sides.

Source: Economic Interdependence project, <http://www.cpnet.net>

Case 3: BUSINESS & ELECTRICITY (II)



❖ How?

- Both the CCCI and the TC Chamber of Commerce support and promote bi-communal business cooperation, contributing in this way to the economic interdependence between the GC and the TC Community.

❖ Difference made

- Financial flows across the Green Line were worth EUR 301 million in 2009, according to research by Peace Economics Consortium (PEC) that was jointly commissioned by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KEBE) and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO) through the Economic Interdependence Project.

Source: Economic Interdependence project, <http://www.cpnnet.net>

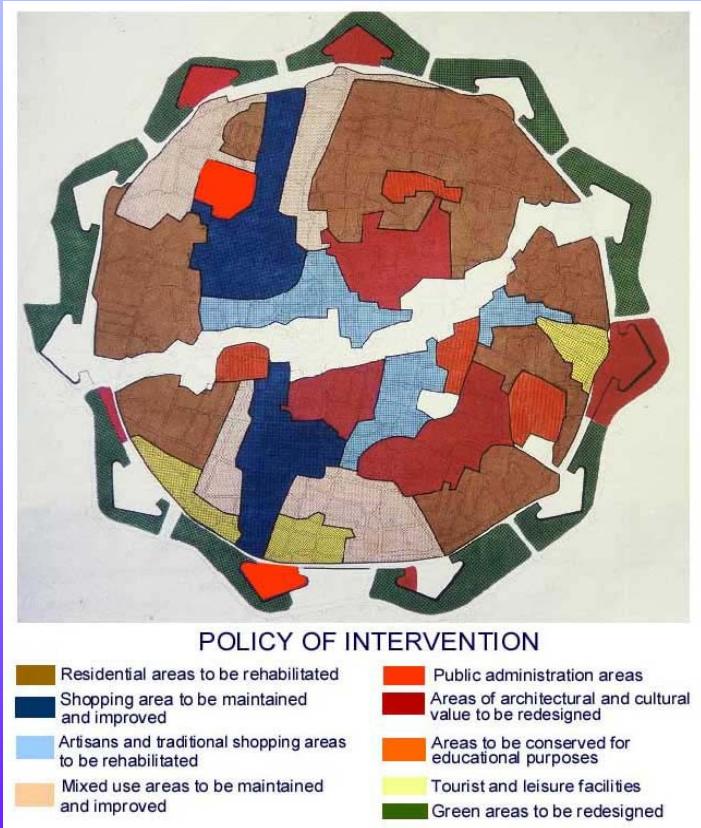


THE HISTORIC CENTRE



- Constitutes a common heritage for all the communities of Nicosia
- Is considered by the NMP team as the most precious part of the city
- This area was subject to physical decay and socio-economic decline conditions for many years

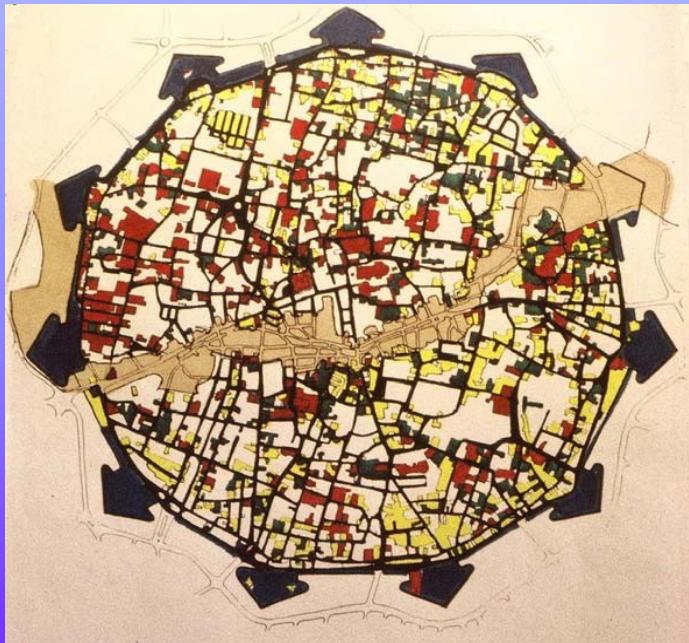
REHABILITATION POLICY



Preservation and rehabilitation as a multi-dimensional process

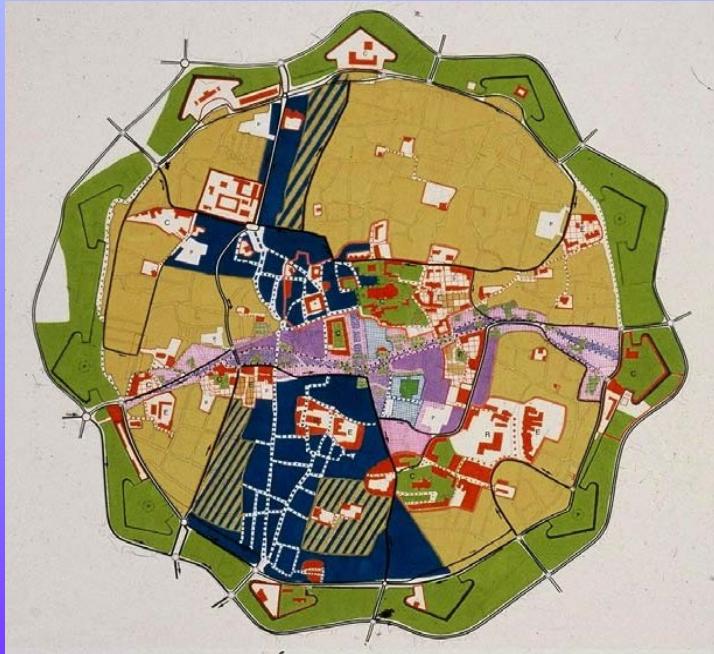
- **Social objectives:**
Relating to the rehabilitation of old residential neighbourhoods, community development and population increase,
- **Economic objectives:**
Aiming to revitalise the commercial core and increase employment opportunities

REHABILITATION POLICY



- **Architectural objectives:**
Preservation and restoration of individual historic monuments and of groups of buildings, with significant architectural and environmental qualities

REHABILITATION POLICY

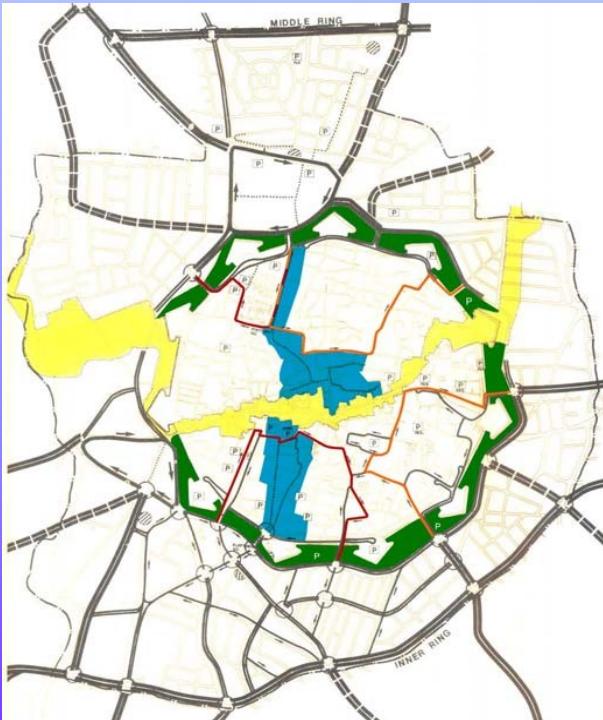


- **Planning objectives:**
Balanced distribution of mixed use areas,

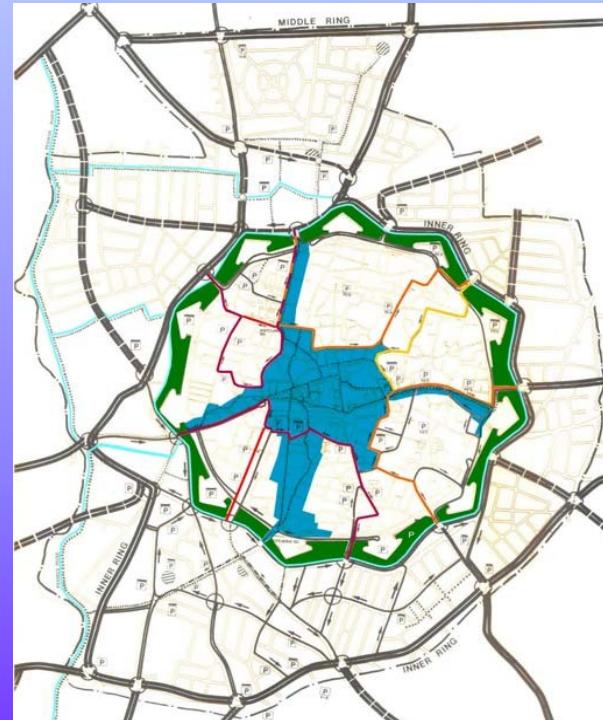
Density of development in harmony with the scale of the historic centre
- **The buffer zone**
considered as the most important “gluing area” for the functional integration of the city

REHABILITATION POLICY

Planning objectives: Traffic Circulation

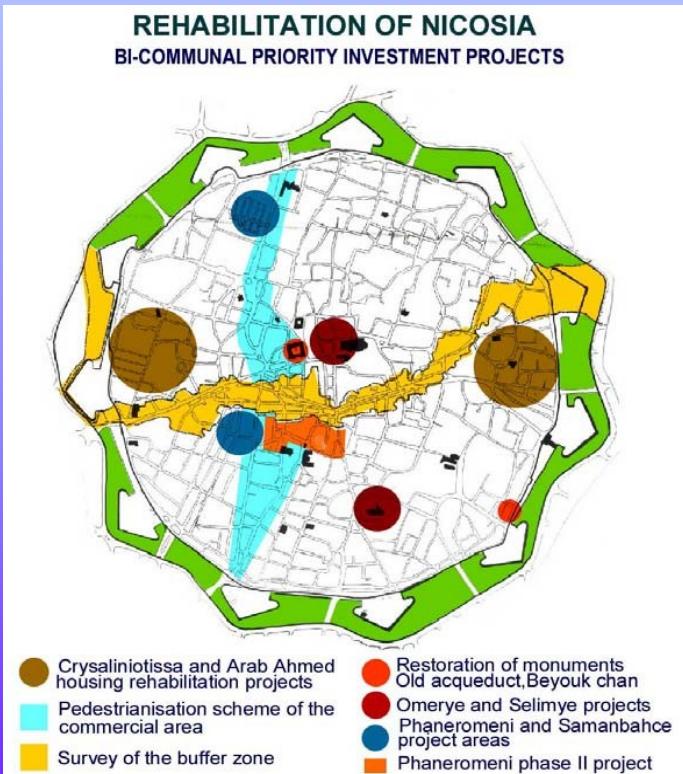


Pattern of one-way loops



Pedestrianisation schemes

REHABILITATION PROCESS

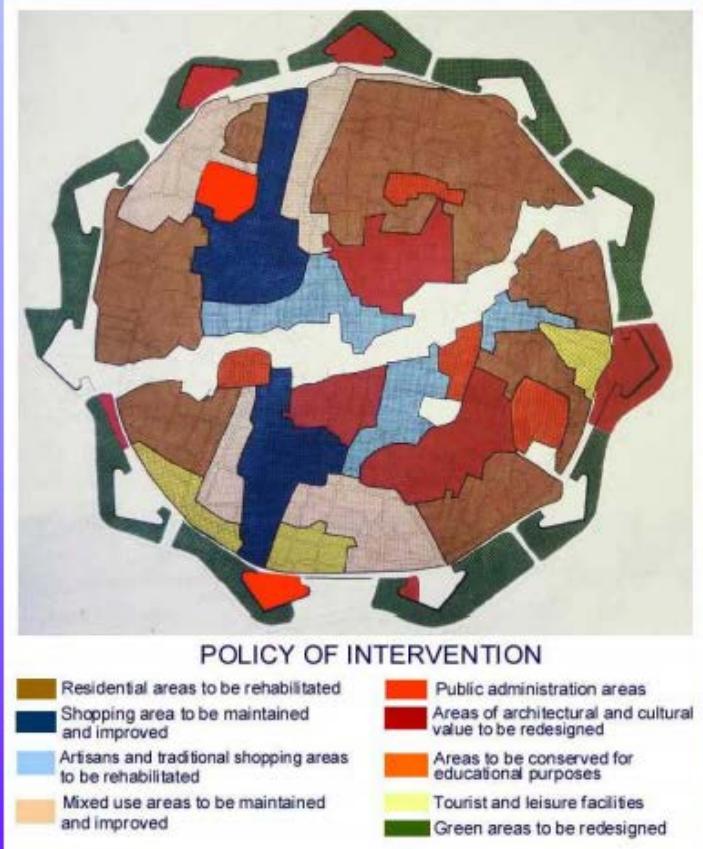


Bi-Communal investment projects:
A common tool of implementation
between the two sides

Twin priority projects:

- **Contribute directly to the revitalisation of the historic centre**
- **Provide the opportunity to the public sector to act as catalyst and stimulate private initiative**

REHABILITATION POLICY



Preservation and rehabilitation as a multi-dimensional process

- **Social objectives:**
Relating to the rehabilitation of old residential neighbourhoods, community development and population increase,
- **Economic objectives:**
Aiming to revitalise the commercial core and increase employment opportunities

Source: <http://www.thepep.org/en/workplan/urban/documents/petridouNicosiamasterplan.pdf>

Case 5: Joint Football Association



❖ What?

- The Cyprus Football Association was established in 1934 by six Greek Cypriot clubs and two Turkish Cypriot clubs. It joined FIFA in 1948 and Greek and Turkish Cypriot clubs played together in an all-island league until 1955 when they were forced to go their separate ways because of inter-communal violence

❖ Now?

- 5th November- Cyprus Turkish Football Association (CTFA) becomes member of Cyprus Football Association (CFA). Deal was brokered by Jerome Champagne, former FIFA Deputy General Secretary who has been advising the Cyprus Turkish FA.

Source: Economic Interdependence project, <http://www.cpnet.net>

Case 5: Joint Football Association



How?

I feel today extremely proud and happy at the signing of the CFA-CTFA 'provisional agreement' after 58 years of division of football on the island, 30 years of isolation for Turkish-Cypriot football, a huge amount of phone calls and informal meetings - and ten versions of the draft," Jérôme Champagne (7th Nov, 2013)

Source: Economic Interdependence project, <http://www.cpnet.net>

Bi-communal contacts



Source: Broome B. (2005), "Building Bridges Across the Green Line. A GUIDE TO INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN CYPRUS", UNDP Nicosia, http://www.undp-act.org/data/articles/building_bridges_english.pdf, p.16

CONCLUSION



- There have been many initiatives to build confidence and to develop collaborative practice by environmental NGOs, chambers of commerce on both sides.
- These initiatives have fostered an eco-system to enable to resolve the long lasting conflict.
- International Organisations can and have played a useful intermediary role in a sustained manner e.g. UNDP, WHO, ICRC.

CONCLUSION (2)



- De-politizise inter-communal initiatives aiming at ensuring sustainability of the environment
- Allow Track 2 and Track 3 Diplomacy initiatives intended to create mutual benefits and sustainable development for all parties
- Invite political leaders to join constructive and mutually beneficial inter-communal projects.
- Provide public at large with facts as to a) costs of current conflict; b) cost of not being able to benefit from opportunities of development due to the conflict; c) costs of third parties influence
- Give space to environment NGOs and chambers of Commerce of all communities to engage in fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation.



Sources:

- **Nicosia Master Plan**
http://www.undp--pff.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=140, Nicosia
- **Jarraud, Nicolas; UNDP-ACT,**
A Practitioner's Perspective, Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice; 2012, 24:4, 438-445
- **Saner, Raymond; Yiu, Lichia**, “*External Stakeholder Impacts on Third-Party Interventions in Resolving Malignant Conflicts: The Case of a Failed Third Party Intervention on Cyprus*”, *International Negotiation*, Kluwer Publ, 6: 387-416, 2001
-