

The Treasure Map of the citizen childhood

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Abstract: We are cartographers, trained and dedicated to our respective institutions around the world. Our cartographic works are gradually being developed, combining our multiple professional scientific and artistic skills, in the service of citizen information through the production of our maps.

The performance of our works, submitted to the confidentiality of informations and data bases we process, remains invisible to public. In our complex job, confidentiality is a rule we first respect. We don't usually explain our sophisticated manufacturing processes. Only our final result counts: THE MAP, completed, faithful to its project, editable, interpretable and memorable at a first glance of its users.

Among the Ecomuseum scientific team that was created in Battir, Palestine, after 2003, there was no cartographer¹. The team of young Palestinian professionals in architecture and civil engineering, just graduated, was armed with the rigour of their newly acquired knowledge, armed with their human freedom and citizen convictions. Isolated from everything they produced their collections of topographic maps from their own local survey.

After the recall of its exceptional frame, this presentation aims to demonstrate how, through mapping-workshops open to everyone at the Public Library of their village, the children of Battir created their "Treasure Map" from their local proprietary geospatialized data they extend to neighbouring villages.

Keywords: Treasure Map, Mapping-Workshops, Proprietary Geospatialized Data, Smart City, Battir Smart Village

1. Introduction

Battir Landscape Ecomuseum, in Palestine, embodies an unprecedented Palestinian cartographic adventure belonging to its citizens whom ignore the **loss** of their geospatialized cartographic patrimony they still don't have the means to manage on site since 2011. A proliferation of surveys, measurements, analyses and studies has been reported on the 12.5 Km² that we have never stopped explaining since 2012, in order to be able to restore to this village community its historical cartographic heritage that could be orthonormed, geospatialized and updated from Paris, a scientific and cultural patrimony everyone in the area needs so much through this radiation of recognition visible at last². The land-planning work that we do within our various institutional services, concentrated indefinitely under our waterlines to produce this iceberg that is a map, as we keep calling it, coordinating during weeks, months, years, our various trades of representation of the territory; validating day after day the quality of our collective work — this work, usually at the expense of the State — was produced by young citizens in Battir, after 2003, without our knowing it, such was the ostracism, from all sides, faced by these local efforts of an

effervescent youth. It took landscape students from the ENSAPL³ to question in 2012 how the maps were raised from the landscape, to allow us at last, to discover this treasure of civilian cartography, civic and citizen whose existence we did not even suspect. In a place, however, where the issue of non-representation of the territory turn invisible the lives and the peace that preside over the order of these entangled, nourishing, majestic valley.

The peace, which, here, has been able to map itself for 18 years, in silence. The issue of individual and collective responsibility is universal. It is timeless. The world will have to wake up, and to wake him up, the children took their treasure map within their Cartographic-Workshops-led by the adults who educate them, teachers and associated parents. To contextualize the local topographic works of the Ecomuseum of Battir remains every day more an urgency to also understand how they are, finally, re-appropriated for 9 years by this village community and especially through the eyes of the children of the village, by their education, their gestures, their shared journeys to the games for the recognition of a rich past that they project into their future, adding to the desire for security that the future demands (Fig. 1).

¹ Battir Landscape Ecomuseum: 4th Hyperheritage International Seminar (International Conference) Smart Heritage 2-5 May, 2017 | Arab American University - Jenin, Palestine

https://www.academia.edu/41114772/The_Civic_Civilian_Topographic_Maps_of_Battir_Village_of_Palestine_Unesco_Word_Heritage_Site_its_Palestinian_Cultural_Patrimony_a_worldwide_resonance_a_candidacy_to_the_Nobel_Peace_Prize

² Battir & les Cafés-cartographiques since 2012 — Indicative bibliography, 2021, J. Desclaux-Salachas

https://www.academia.edu/41133998/BIBLIOGRAPHY_2012_2021_BATTIR_village_of_Palestine_les_Caf%C3%A9s_cartographiques_Conferences_Papers_and_Links_to_Web_Sites_and_Blogs

³ ENSAPL <https://www.lille.archi.fr> [For more information: <https://neocarto.hypotheses.org/2933> by N. Lambert]

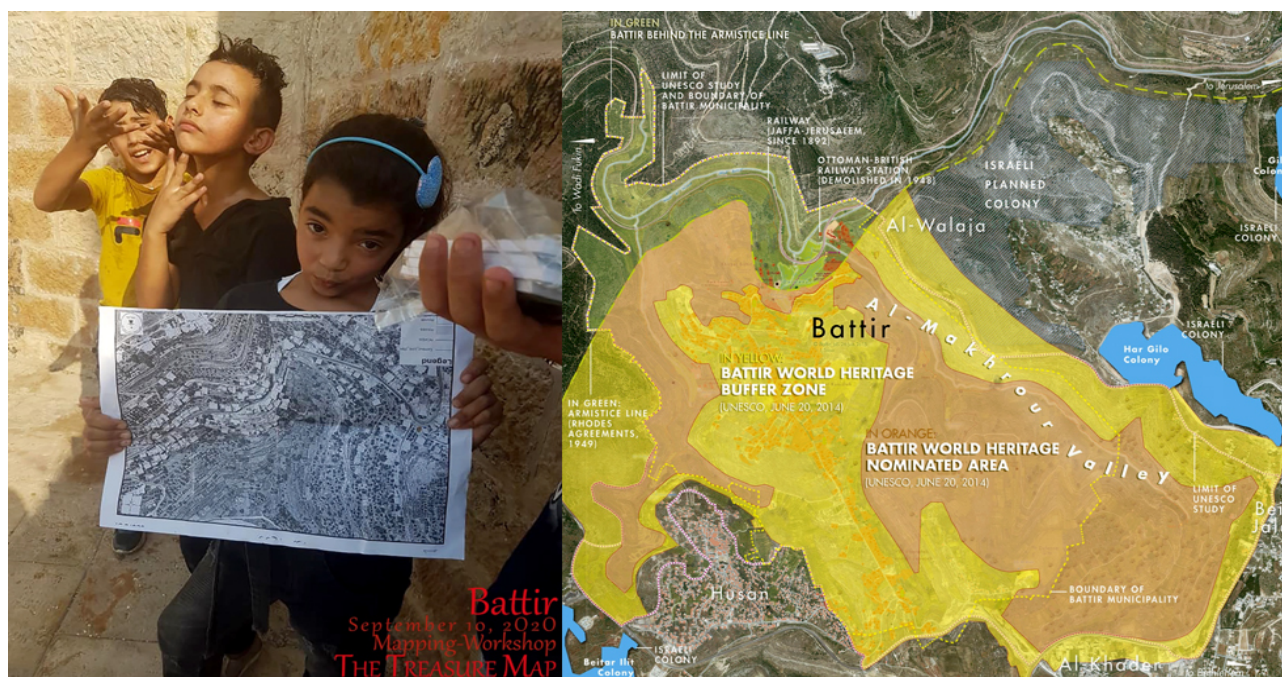


Figure 1. The Treasure Map, all sites mapped within this scope are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites in danger, Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library.
(Battir in @Illustrator, D.-Salachas, J., 2020)

2. Do you love maps? The Treasure Map of Battir became an outdoor activity for everybody!

Between geodesy and art, to support smart city activities between science, games and citizenship, the citizen requirement never ends to be shared around the world: Battir is the smart village of its citizens, adults and children. And here, probably more than anywhere else due to the geospatialized data property, it became a priority stake of education to preserve its meaning. In order to protect its memorial nature and its civic values providing cultural tools for future, the local proprietary geospatialised data resulting from the topographical survey of the village has become an educational issue in Battir, in particular through the activities of its Public Library⁴.

2.1 Geolocate your village in order to locate yourself in your spaces and places: to exist

Interventions on the issue of maps in classrooms begin with pupils from the second year of kindergarten (*ICA-Washington DC ICC-2017*⁵). Explaining the richness of our professions in the representation of spaces and territories has become evident through the solicitations of teachers since more than 40 years in the frame of our

professional activities between Cartography and Children. Each workshop is adapted to the age of the pupils, to the work in process with their teachers, to their curiosities, answering to their requests.

Youngest eyes spontaneously embody their space and, free of bias, represent in their own approach, with their sincerity, what they see (*ICA-Nessebar ICCGIS-2020/2022*⁶). Each look is different, inscribed in the approach of its own references, its own understanding.

In Battir, the citizens commitments became also, step by step, a childhood concern in order to not let themselves exceed, in staying the protagonists firmly surrounded of their own future.

2.2 The quality of our information: a question of individual and collective responsibility.

As soon as 2012, without the extreme urgency to call for the recognition and the restitution of its cartographic patrimony, in respect of its original authors and their intellectual property, our public activities could not have resonated daily for 9 years behind the steps of Battir Landscape Ecomuseum. To not consent to the silences that have erased these visionary works of the collective consciousness, it is to not renounce the ever-richer developments of the knowledge that we must share and transmit (Fig. 2, 3).

⁴ Battir Public Library @battir.v.council

⁵ 4605.2 - Orienteering activities in Battir, Palestine, UNESCO World Heritage Site since June 2014. Desclaux-Salachas, J., Mapping in Middle East : New Eye. Battir, village of Palestine (UNESCO World Heritage Site, since June 2014) – J. DesclauxSalachas <https://icaci.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/icc2017-program.pdf>

⁶ The Meticulous Work Done By The Second-Year Kindergarten Pupils. Where Everything Begins: Opening A Citizen's Eye, Desclaux-Salachas, J. (p. 405)
https://iccgis2020.cartography-gis.com/8ICCGIS-Vol1/8ICCGIS_Proceedings_Vol1_2020-Optimized.pdf



Figure 2. Battir Landscape Ecomuseum (Photo: D.-Salachas, J. 2014)



Figure 3. Battir, Palestine. 7 Km SW-Jerusalem (Location in ©Illustrator, D.-Salachas, J., 2016)

We do not have to give up our individual responsibilities, especially when lives are at stake behind voluntary silences, dangerously selective, needless. To arouse the desire to understand, to discover to know, to share to awaken, to structure individual thought, is to keep a chance to act on collective action, here for the preservation of the common good. In Battir, cartography summons us to the duty of questioning truths in their details.

The map is a formal invitation to query.

It is necessary to allow 'understanding' so that behaviors escape defiance and not remain confined to mediocrity.

2.3 Designing a map, it is producing the intelligence that constitutes the history of a territory tens of millimeter after tens of millimeter.

Being a cartographer is, first of all, to be a courier of the measure of reality. It is to be able to nourish the imaginaries from the representation of what happens around oneself, of what interferes between nature and our actions on it (Fig. 4, 5, 6).



Figure 4. To geolocate Battir. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2014)



Figure 5. Orienteering Activities. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (Photo: D.-Salachas, J., 2014)



Figure 6. Orienteering Activities. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (Photo: D.-Salachas, J., 2014)

In Battir, the children have become couriers of their realities. Those of the richness of their environment, the strength of their history anchored from their millennial valleys to their 'Gardens of Paradise', their schools, their games, their living workshops, in a willingness to transmit what is their history, what constitutes, also, their imaginary (Fig. 7, 8, 9).

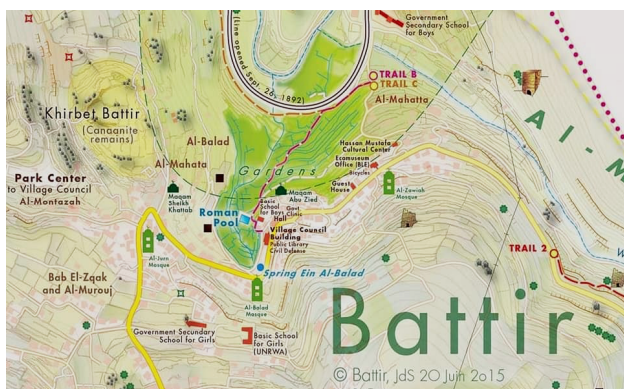


Figure 7. Battir, Palestine. 12.5 Km² surveyed, studied and mapped (Battir in @Illustrator, D.-Salachas, J., 2015)

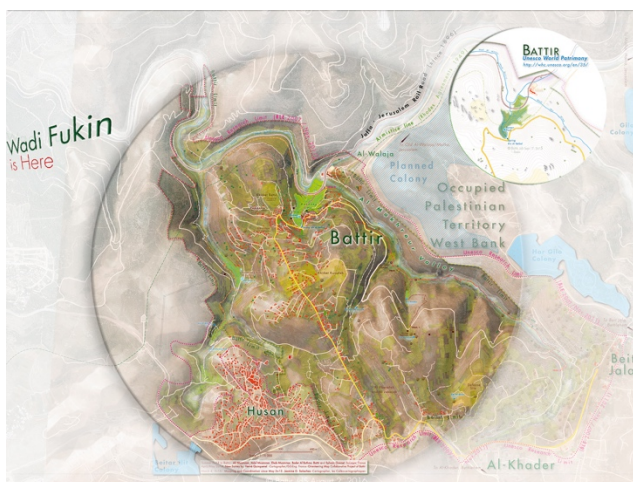


Figure 8. Battir, Palestine. 12.5 Km² surveyed, studied and mapped (Battir in @Illustrator, D.-Salachas, J., 2016)



Figure 9. Battir, Palestine. A World Heritage Site Since June 2014. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2017)

2.4 Cartographers are ‘Carriers’ of science, culture and humanity.

The map refers to a staging of the received real, perceived, by the plural subjectivity of each, variable from one individual to the other. How can the map invite its users to recognize to learn, to interpret to understand and

know? How is the map constructed and how is the map information captured? How can the map be a reference tool for citizen education? Here, the children also contribute this necessary opening of a universal dialogue (Fig. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14).



Figure 10. Spatial Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library. (The Letter To Thomas Pesquet, ISS, 2017)



Figure 11. Spatial Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 12. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 13. Spatial Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 14. Battir, Palestine. A survey on 12.5 Km² (Battir in @Illustrator, D.-Salachas, J., 2015) and a spatial appropriation by its children (Spatial Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library, 2021)

Building a map means first of all understanding its object and identifying what to transmit from its subject, knowing to whom it is supposed to be transmitted and for what reasons. Building a map means knowing how to transpose this subject “graphically” in order to share it with clarity in order to make it instantly identifiable, understandable and memorizable by its reader (Fig. 15, 16).

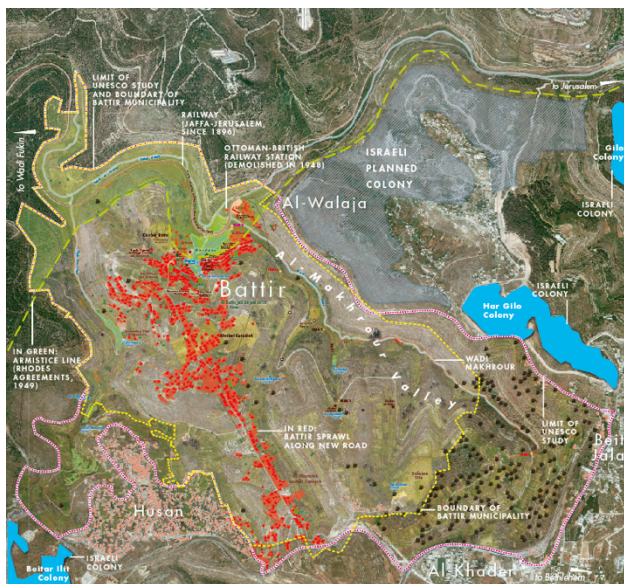


Figure 15. Battir in @Illustrator, D.-Salachas, J. (2020)

3. Cartography and children

This construction induces attention, rigour and practical application of a multitude of knowledge and know-how, methods and precise processes to be constantly adapted to

the new tools available, both to elaborate it and to transmit its outcomes and achievements. Building a map is an invitation to ask constant questions, to question oneself to better question, to cross the various possible angles of approach to define a concise, precise message, to be useful to its user. Whatever the topic, producing a map requires hiring skills that are often not well known, or even unknown to the public to whom it is addressed.

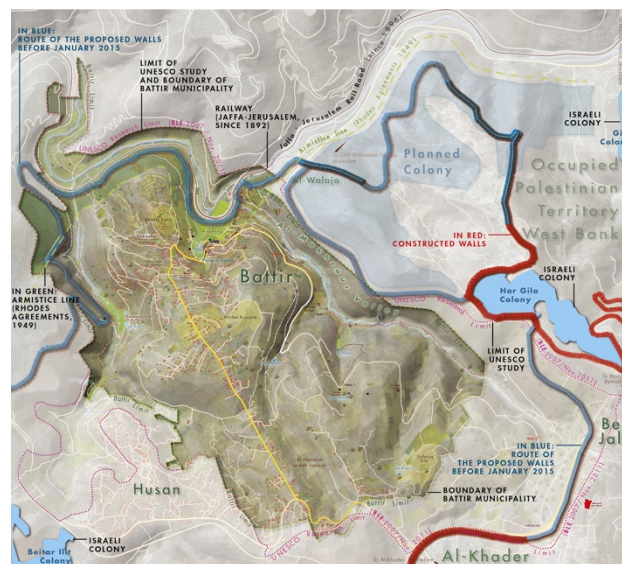


Figure 16. Battir in @Illustrator, D.-Salachas, J. (2020)

3.1 Battir, 9 years between institutional mapping and sensitive cartography, orienteering activities and workshops accessible to all, as soon as 5

How does a map message interact with its user? How does the map offer her/him a staging of space that can claim to inform him about the real, to inform him, to enrich him usefully from various points of view? How is information designed to respond to a research as accurately as possible, allowing him to explore his/her subject? How does the map educate when information reaches its target and how can it help to inspire and forge its citizenship? (Fig. 17).



Figure 17. Behind a map, a landscape and its human stakes. (D.-Salachas, J., 2012)

3.2 It is a patrimonial treasure we protect as much as possible

We still preserve its quality mainly on @Illustrator first, through its digital art mapping. This heavy cartographic file created end of April 2012 on site, in the frame of the Battir Landscape Ecomuseum, completed at the time by its

orthonormed topodata. Then, recorded in each of our licenced and open source professional cartographic systems since more than 9 years, **this iceberg previously mentionned**⁷ an enchantment shared by those who have been able, over the months, to transmit these works up to standard, to open by their sides other intelligent looks built on the truths that citizens of Palestine, responsible, had chose to share through their stakes (Fig. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22).

3.3 From the unknown local collective scientific masterpiece to its international resonance: the citizen commitment became universal in 2012 and a Nobel Pease Price Nomination since 2016

'L'effet Battir'

“ Battir, see Battir. Imagine Battir. Who, hitherto, could have imagined this undreamtstatic freshness in Palestine ?

This is done : the imaging, by love for it and for yours, so humble, so refined, who shape it, from day to day, and make it live to nourish Jerusalem so that it live in turn.

Reveal Battir, its souls and their work.

Battir, so close and so distinct, like an islet out of the chaos, a haven/heaven from a still active volcano.

These pastel skies and these stones which talk, and everywhere, these bluish clumps, these rustling, glittering spurts, sap of nourishing earth of Jerusalem, our story, all of us, Near Easterners and Europeans.

These so absorbed gardeners, these benevolents, appealing artisans of the best, these aromas that can be guessed, these flavours under the greenness, this living water shining everywhere, all this knowledge come from so far, how the Earth called Holy can it cut from its source, its birthplace, in Fertile Crescent, how can it close on you and deny its miracle ?

Battir, there are your children who cherish and surround you, and all around, those who want you, to point to crush you, to enclose you. People of Battir, you're no more alone ! Peace will start from Battir, the Exemplary. Thank you so much for the enchantment of discovering Battir. The whole world must know this secret genuine face of Palestine. Battir brought to light, we cannot stop wanting to see and know more and more ! ”

A Letter between hundreds of others, by Régine Tolosa, Citizen (France, November 2013)



Figure 18. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 19. Geolocate the Treasure in the map: 1-Battir Public Library Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)

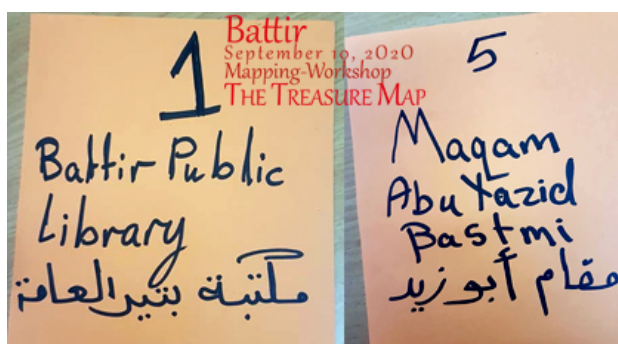


Figure 20. Geolocate the Treasure in the map. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)

⁷ GeoSee Institute & Desclaux-Salachas, J. (June 2019), The Cartographic Citizen University From The Unprecedented Civic Topo-Cartographic Model Made In Palestine (Battir From Paris 2012-2019) http://mmm-gi.geo-see.org/wp-content/uploads/MMM-GI_12/Desclaux-Salachas_V.pdf
<http://mmm-gi.geo-see.org/journal/>
https://www.academia.edu/39505401/THE_CARTOGRAPHIC_CITIZEN_UNIVERSITY_FROM_THE_UNPRECEDENTED

[_CIVIC_TOPO-CARTOGRAPHIC_MODEL_MADE_IN_PALESTINE_BATTIR_FROM_PARIS_2012-2019](#)



Figure 21. Geolocate and draw the Treasure in the map: 5-Abu Yazed Shrine. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 22. To geolocate Battir from space. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)

“Acts of peace require our urgent attention. The application submitted in 2016 to The Nobel Peace Price Committee offers us the way to never it give up”

Abstract: *The survey works of topographic measurements carried out on 12.5 Km² at Battir (5Km west of Bethlehem, West Bank), count as an unprecedented act of citizen peace, whether in the Middle East or anywhere else, as well as in the long history of Cartography.*

Opposite to any other approach, it is a comprehensive and coherent project for the enhancement of their territory and lifestyle that the citizens of Battir have been able to implement in the frame of the Battir Landscape Ecomuseum, in order to propose a global set of constructive solutions full of promises, in those majestic locations, those multi-millennial heritages that have lived down the ages and, till now, their chaos.

In order to make known throughout the world the value of these collective works, in order to promote them, to sustain their practices, their impact in the longer run and to preserve their memory, we are submitting to the vote of the Norwegian Nobel Committee their Nomination to the Nobel Peace Prize, updating the ongoing process (since 2016).

This application responds to the wishes of those who united, since May 2012, to assert the universal impact of this visionary initiative of Battir, envisaged as early as

2003, implemented from 2007 to November in 2011 from its Ecomuseum, then enriched, accurately validated, data geolocated, updated and shared in a continuous flow from Paris, after May 2012.

This is a collective collaborative masterpiece, a human commitment for rights which we salute and want to preserve, in the name of each member of the team of independent researchers who worked to produce this survey and the topographical maps, in the name of every contributing expert and student who assisted in its development since May 2012. (Fig. 23).

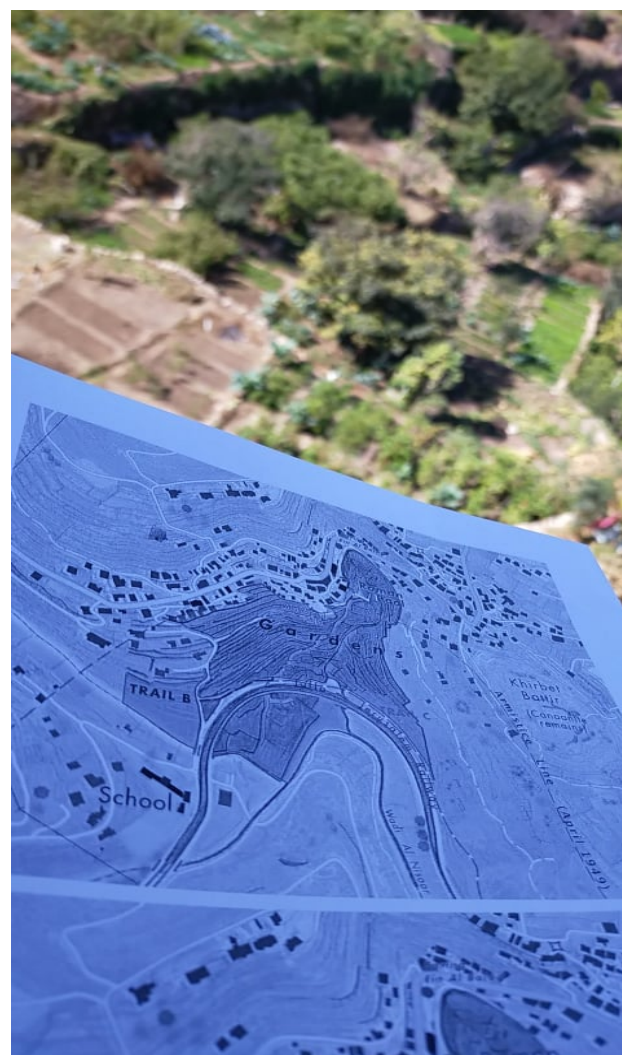


Figure 23. ‘The Gardens Of Paradise’ – The map up and down. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)

4. Conclusion

When a project appears relevant, it requires cooperation and know how to say no to what giving up implies. To be responsible is to be exemplary. We will see how we are, together, able to substitute ourselves for what does not work to get out of the power of incompetence. In order not to confine ourselves to mediocrity, we can and know how to gather with enlightened individuals, to move out together, out of mediocrity, to escape this state of

sideration that seizes us and, out of docility, could lead us to the worst renunciations of our individual and collective responsibilities. We will see how mapping offers us a multitude of educational and unifying tools to understand it, to commit, together, to move forward (Fig. 24, 25, 26, 27).



Figure 24. Learning From The Elders. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 25. Locate Battir from 'The Gardens of Paradise'. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 26. To geolocate Battir from space. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)



Figure 27. To move forward. Mapping-Workshops, Battir Public Library (2021)

4.1 The social role of civilian cartography through its respect for the law offer natural issues for the future.

From Antiquity to the stars, in their space of today, a recognized World Heritage site⁸ in the frame of their mapping-workshops open to everyone at the Public Library of their village, the children of Battir created their "Treasure Map" from their local proprietary geospatialized data supposed to be extended to neighbouring villages.

The approach presented here aims to follow up the powerful demonstration of the efficiency of a civilian cartographic patrimony aiming to share the knowledge of living existence through science, culture and education.

5. Acknowledgements

We warmly thank the Battir's teams and each of our correspondent around the word for allowing these works to enlighten education for peace in the mind of men and women since 2012 particularly. Our special thanks to Mrs Mammam Ismail Mariam and to her colleagues on site.

To all the children of Battir, Thank you.

⁸ UNESCO, Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492>