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

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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)

![Diagram]

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.

Bi-Communal Projects
Building bridges between the two communities

• 1978: Agreement for the preparation of a common sewerage system

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

• 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.

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 20,000 m³ of sewage daily and serves the areas of Nicosia, Agios Dometios and parts of Strovolos, Egkomi and Aglangia as well as part of the occupied area of Nicosia.

Case 3: BUSINESS & ELECTRICITY (I)

- **What?** Purchase of electricity from the TCC to the GCC 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.cpnnet.net](http://www.cpnnet.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.cpnnnet.net](http://www.cpnnnet.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
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
• 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

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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.cpnnet.net
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.cpnnet.net
Bi-communal contacts

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, 